

### 'Announcement nears on Kurdish talks'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — An agreement between the Iraqi government and Kurdish rebels will be announced soon, a leading government newspaper reported Tuesday. Al Qadisiya, the mouthpiece of the ministry of defence, said the agreement would coincide with the beginning of public discussion of draft laws on press freedom and democratic reforms. The newspaper cited "well-informed sources" as saying that talks between the government and the Kurds "are being held in a positive and normal atmosphere." The report was carried by the official Iraqi news agency and monitored in Cyprus. It was the first official report in Baghdad since news last month that a Kurdish delegation led by rebel chief Massoud Barzani had been holding talks with Iraqi officials. Aims of the talks were establishment of an autonomous Kurdish zone in northern Iraq and a democratic government in Baghdad. Barzani, head of the largest Kurdish faction, the Kurdish Democratic Party, said last week that he expected an agreement could be reached by June 20.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية 'الراي'

Volume 16 Number 4724

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1991, THI AL QU'DEH 29, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## "If this life has any meaning it is for me to pursue the quest to win God's blessing and to serve this nation" King recovering in hospital

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein, who was admitted to hospital Monday for treatment following irregular heartbeat, was Tuesday, recovering, an official statement said. The statement said the Royal Palace wanted "to reassure the Jordanian people about the King's condition."

The statement which said that the King Hussein was admitted to Al Hussein Medical City Monday, June 10, reassured Jordanians that "His Majesty was recovering with God's will."

King Hussein, speaking to Radio Jordan Tuesday from the hospital, said that he had "experienced similar health indisposition several times in the past, and I believe this will be a short one with God's help; I hope to return to resume my work with you in order to pursue the endeavour towards the common aspirations."

"If this life has any meaning it is for me to pursue the quest to win God's blessing and to serve this nation and the Jordanian people whose heads will remain raised high since they strive to protect the Arab Na-

tion's rights and work for the future," the King added.

"The best gift which I can receive from my kinsmen and brothers with whom I have lived all my life is to find them full of the spirit that characterised their stand when we met to endorse the National Charter," King Hussein said.

"In my address I have meant every word I said. I pray to God that this country will continue to progress and follow the course we have all chosen in order to attain strength and continuity and to set a good example for our brothers in the world," the King concluded.

A palace official told the Associated Press that the King was "doing fine and in fact he is in an excellent condition now and he might leave the hospital

Wednesday."

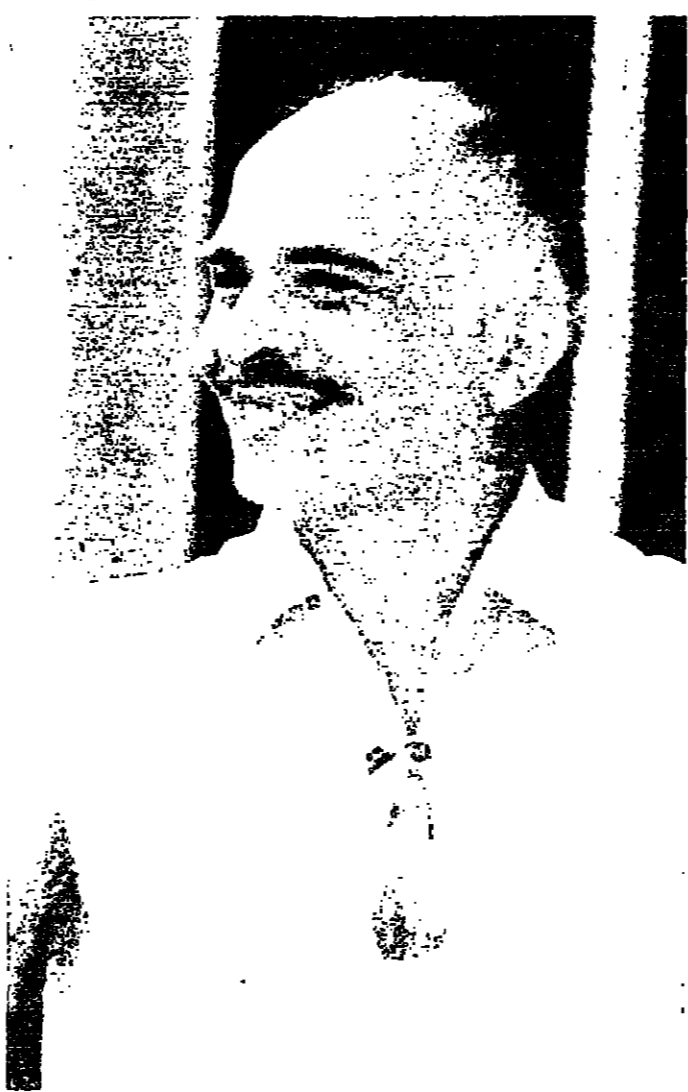
The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the heart trouble was caused by "continuous hard work during the past few weeks."

In the past week the King participated in many major local events, including celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt and the signing of the National Charter legalising political pluralism in the country.

According to the official, the King has had periodic heart checkups in Jordan as well as the United States and Britain and had a case of heart irregularity in May 1990.

The source said the King was urged to quit smoking, lose weight and refrain from physically draining activities at that time which he did. But he started smoking again after the Gulf crisis erupted last August.

The Royal Palace was flooded Tuesday by cables from Jordanians wishing the King a speedy recovery. The palace also received thousands of calls from Jordanians inquiring about his health, Jordan Television reported.



Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat both called the King at hospital to wish him a speedy recovery.

## Egypt, Syria say Israeli military major threat to peace

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The Middle East's two most powerful Arab states said on Tuesday that Israel's military machine was a major threat to Washington's plans to make the region safer.

Egypt and Syria said Israel, the largest recipient of U.S. military aid in the world, should give up weapons of mass destruction, including its nuclear arsenal, if President George Bush's arms reduction proposals were to have any chance of success.

The arms control proposals should cover all Middle Eastern countries, they said, and Israel should join the nuclear non-proliferation pact.

The official daily Tishreen quoted visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa as saying that while Cairo welcomed the U.S. proposals it wanted them to cover all major weapons, particularly Israel's nuclear arms.

"Both sides stressed the necessity of enforcing the elimina-

tion of mass destruction weapons... without any exception... especially in the nuclear field," a Syrian official said.

Israel refuses to confirm or deny that it has nuclear weapons but western military sources say the Jewish state has at least 100 nuclear warheads and missiles to deliver them.

No Arab country has nuclear weapons and Washington has sidestepped questions on whether the Jewish state's nuclear weapons would be included in the arms reduction plan.

During wide-ranging discussions, Moussa and Shara focused on perceived Israeli intransigence on proposals for a Middle East peace conference and plans for a post-Gulf war security force, the backbone of which would be formed by Syrian and Egyptian troops.

"The two sides discussed the negative effects resulting from

the continuation of Israel's policies hindering efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive peace settlement," a Syrian official said.

Moussa, visiting Damascus for the first time since becoming foreign minister, later held talks with President Hafez Al Assad.

The Egyptian minister told Tishreen that Syria and Egypt agreed that peace could not be achieved in the Middle East unless Israel withdrew from occupied Arab territories.

Syria and most Arab countries want any Middle East peace conference to be based on U.S. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 — an exchange of land for peace.

Israel, which says it will not give up any occupied land, wants a largely ceremonial conference without U.N. participation to be followed by face-to-face talks with individual Arab states.

## No hostages, no aid, Britain tells Lebanon 'Israel ready for swap'

BEIRUT (AP) — Foreigners will not invest in war-ravaged Lebanon until the western hostages held there are released, British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg said Tuesday.

"Clearly, what this country needs is investment confidence — people coming back to it to trade and to invest here — and that inevitably will not happen until all hostages are released," Hogg told reporters.

Hogg spoke at a news conference after a one-hour meeting with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi on the third day of his visit here to win freedom for the 13 missing westerners.

The British official held separate talks with Hrawi and Foreign

Minister Pares Bweiz, both Maronite Catholics, Prime Minister Omar Karami, a Sunni Muslim, and Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein, a Shiite Muslim.

The meetings coincided with the 77th birthday of retired royal air force pilot Jack Mann, who disappeared May 12, 1989, as he drove to a bank in Muslim west Beirut.

Hogg warned that the release of the hostages will prove a key litmus test on winning international respectability for Lebanon as the country tries to put the 16-year civil war behind it.

## Amnesty urges halt to 'defective' Kuwait trials

LONDON (Agencies) — Amnesty International said on Tuesday trials in Kuwait arising from the seven-month Iraqi occupation were defective and asked the government to halt them until defendants could be guaranteed a fair hearing.

The London-based human rights group called on the Kuwaiti government to commute the only death sentence passed so far.

"Unfair trials are bad enough in cases where defendants face penalties of imprisonment but they are absolutely intolerable where the penalty is death," Amnesty said in a report compiled after the return of its delegate to the trials.

More than 100 people have appeared in martial law trials on charges stemming from Iraq's occupation. A man was sentenced to death after being charged with membership in the Iraqi popular army.

"The trials so far have been defective in all the critical phases... We're appealing to the Kuwaiti authorities to call a halt to the trials until all the defendants can be guaranteed a fair trial," Amnesty said, criticising the absence of a right to appeal.

In its message to the Kuwaiti government, Amnesty said extensive human rights violations were continuing in the emirate and that the local authorities "do not appear to have taken effective steps to end arbitrary arrests, disappearances, torture or deaths in custody."

It quoted its delegate to the trials as saying he saw two prisoners who appeared to have been tortured, when he visited

Kuwait's Al Farwaniya hospital. One elderly man had bruises on his neck and lacerations across his chest as if he had been repeatedly whipped.

"The second man had injuries on his thighs and holes burned in the soles of his feet — hospital staff said this was done with a cigarette lighter," the delegate said in his report.

Amnesty said some of the charges seemed "grossly disproportionate" to the offence.

Its delegate cited the case of a plumber and an electrician appearing in a case linked to the Iraqi occupation newspaper Al Nida. The electrician was asked by the Iraqis to repair a toilet and he called a plumber to do the job.

"For these actions, the two men could now face the death penalty on charges relating to external state security," Amnesty said.

It said it did not challenge Kuwait's right to try people for offences committed during the occupation "but they must receive fair trials according to internationally accepted standards. This is not happening now." (see story on page 3)

Meanwhile, Kuwait's crown prince hinted in remarks published on Tuesday at a shakeup in senior police ranks.

Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who is prime minister and martial law administrator, told Sawt Al Kuwait "a new outlook and approach" had been brought

to the force.

He said several senior officials in the ministry of the interior had been offered the chance to retire.

It was the second time in a week that the ruling family suggested a cleanup of the force was under way after allegations by western human rights groups of police brutality.

In a collaboration trial on Tuesday a defence lawyer appealed for mercy for Kuwait's thousands of stateless Arab residents.

"These people are really suffering," said Mohammad Anizi, telling the court that stateless Arabs, known as bedoons once saved the emir from an assassin's bomb.

Anizi's client, Samir Al Khalef, is charged with joining Iraq's popular army — an offence that has drawn the only death sentence in the three-week hearings.

The authorities are holding several thousands bedoun on suspicion of being Iraqis. Generations of bedoun have served in Kuwait's army and police force.

Kuwait has also quietly begun deporting Iraqi residents — a possible violation of a post-Gulf war agreement banning forced repatriation.

Police at the border post of Abdali said 46 Iraqis were deported on Sunday night and up to 200 more were expected to be repatriated on Tuesday.

"They all cry, saying 'Iraqis will kill me,' then they go," police Lieutenant Faisal Al Anzi told reporters.

Interior Minister Sheikh

## Israeli troops kill Palestinian boy; leaflet urges end to inter-fighting

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead a 14-year-old Palestinian who ignored orders to stop throwing stones in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, Israeli and Palestinian sources said.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, seven masked Palestinian activists stabbed to death a 22-year-old Arab woman in the doorway of her home and badly beat her father when he tried to prevent the killing.

Palestinians identified the youth as Khaled Ismael Khader from the village of Beit Sira near Ramallah.

Military sources said he was throwing stones on a main road leading to a Jewish settlement in the area and refused army orders to stop. Soldiers opened fire and killed him.

The woman, who lived in the Mughazi refugee camp, was named as Sabah Al Dubail. She was apparently suspected of col-

laborating with Israeli authorities, Israeli radio said. Her father was in critical condition.

It was the latest attack in a rash of inter-Palestinian violence which has prompted appeals from the senior Palestinian nationalists and uprising organisers in the occupied territories to stop killings of suspected collaborators.

Meanwhile, four PLO factions and the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas issued a joint leaflet Tuesday calling for an end to factional fighting.

The appeal against factional fighting from Hamas and Palestine Liberation Organisation factions followed several days of clashes between rival Palestinians in late May and early June in the West Bank city of Nablus.

At least four Palestinian activists were wounded in the confrontations, which pitted Hamas against the PLO's Fatah faction for control of the city's casbah, or market area.

Last Thursday, one Palestinian was killed and another wounded in a clash between members of Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PLO faction.

The leaflet declared factional fighting a "taboo" and condemned the use of weapons against fellow Palestinians. It said "those who resort to weapons instead of constructive dialogue... will be held responsible for their actions."

The leaflet also strongly criticised activists who pursued a wounded Palestinian into a Nablus hospital, saying "we condemn the attack on one of the wounded in a hospital operating room."

The leaflet was signed by the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction, the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Communist Party and Hamas, also known as the Islamic Resistance Movement.

## Israeli minister calls for negotiations over the Golan Heights

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli cabinet minister called on Tuesday for negotiations on the future of the Golan Heights if Syria agreed not to remove Jewish settlements or station troops there.

"You have to understand what we are in return for that," Interior Minister Arye Dori said.

"If we remove the Syrian threat, which is the most serious threat, a much more serious threat than the Iraqi threat, that is why we are making peace."

Dori spoke to reporters during a tour of Jewish towns in northern Israel and the adjoining Golan Heights, a strategic

plateau captured from Syria during the 1967 Middle East war. His comments indicated much greater flexibility than the usual position of the government, which has said Syria can seek the return of the land but Israel would refuse.

The Israeli minister said that before talks begin Syrian President Hafez Al Assad would have to accept two conditions:

"That no Syrian soldiers will be there and that the Jewish settlements will not only remain but expand in natural development."

## Palestinians leave adopted home, Kuwait

By Jane Arraf  
Reuter

AMMAN — Palestinians who have lived in Kuwait for decades are fleeing their adopted home, driven by fear that life will never be the same after the Gulf war.

"I call it the tragedy," said 25-year-old Rami, born in Kuwait but now one of those who has come to Jordan.

Palestinians left homeless by the creation of the Jewish state and subsequent Arab-Israeli wars settled in Kuwait in large numbers and helped transform the emirate from a desert backwater to a gleaming oil state in the 40 years that preceded

Iraq's August invasion.

Western human rights groups have accused Kuwaiti police, soldiers and self-styled militias of carrying out a witch-hunt against Palestinians because of Palestine Liberation Organisation support for Baghdad in the Gulf crisis.

Hundreds who stayed through the crisis but hoped tension would subside after the war are now giving up and leaving as soon as they can.

Rami said he decided to get out of Kuwait this month after he was taken to a police station twice and accused of stealing cars and kidnapping Kuwaiti girls. The second time he spent

two days in jail.

The Kuwait government says excesses have stopped and has ordered a crackdown on an armed crime and a cleanup of ministry of interior officials.

But Palestinians' worries have been fuelled by a series of trials in Kuwait of those accused of collaborating with the Iraqis during the occupation, many of them Jordanians and Palestinians.

"We talk to our relatives and they say they are fine but that's it — they can't say anything over the phone," said Hanan, a Jordanian office worker.

She said her uncle is trying to leave Kuwait because his

## West opposes easing Iraq sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Western Security Council members, meeting behind closed doors, produced a range of reasons on Tuesday why sanctions could not yet be lifted against Iraq, diplomats said.

But envoys attending the meeting said the Soviet Union, China, Ecuador, Cuba and Yemen were among the nations that wanted sanctions eased in varying degrees to encourage Iraq to comply with U.N. demands.

They said both the United States and Britain, in reviewing Baghdad's compliance with council directives, had prepared lists accusing Iraq of such actions as holding on to Kuwaiti prisoners and not returning Kuwait's stolen property quickly enough.

The sanctions were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait last August in a dispute over oil and

territory.

Under an April 3 Security Council resolution setting terms for a permanent ceasefire in the Gulf war, Iraq's compliance must be reviewed every 60 days.

Technically, the resolution calls for a review on imports to Iraq only. Exports, including oil, should be set free once weapons of mass destruction are scrapped and a war damage fund is set up.

British ambassador David Hannay told reporters during a recess that London insisted its two nationals detained in Iraq — Douglas Brand and Ian Richter — should be freed before sanctions could be lifted.

Hannay also said he told the council that actions taken by Iraq since the ceasefire had been reprehensible, a reference to moves against Kurds and Shiite Muslims whose rebellions last March were

crushed by Baghdad's forces.

"There have been massive acts of repression of the civilian population both in the south and the north of the country which has led to major loss of life," he said.

But he said Britain had no independent knowledge that

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## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

## Occidental looks for oil in Algeria

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Occidental Petroleum Corp. said Monday it signed a joint agreement with the Algerian national oil company to explore the 5.7-million-acre Djennia Touggourt area in the Sahara in northeastern Algeria. The three-year exploration includes seismic tests that will begin immediately and four exploratory wells, the first to be drilled next year. It's the first time a U.S. company has signed a production sharing agreement in the underexplored, productive Melhrir Trough, Oxy Chief Ray R. Irani said. Occidental declined immediate comment on a Wall Street Journal report that China has decided to buy Occidental's 50 per cent stake in the Antabao Coal mine and prepay the mine's large foreign debt. The \$570 million coalmine is one of the largest joint ventures between China and a foreign company. Extricating Occidental from the coal venture, along with several other pet projects of the late Occidental Chairman Armand Hammer, has been a top priority for Irani.

## Police van torched, 15 students arrested

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — About 15 students were arrested Monday after youths stoned police officers and a police van was set afire near Istanbul University, police reported. The incident occurred following a campus meeting where the students protested the killing of a fellow student by police. The students then marched outside. The victim, identified as Murat Kaya, was shot and seriously wounded last week and died Monday. The semi-official Anatolia news agency said he was shot when he did not heed a call by police to stop as he was distributing leaflets containing separatist propaganda in Istanbul. The students hurled rocks at the police outside the campus and threw a firebomb into a police van, which was gutted. Police entered the university and arrested about 15 students upon suspicion of having been involved in the incident or for failing to produce proper identification papers, Anatolia said. There were no reported injuries and further details were not available.

## Big medical supply company scraps plans for Syrian plant

CHICAGO (AP) — Baxter International Inc. announced Monday it is abandoning plans to build a plant in Syria because of controversy over the medical supply giant's dealings in the Middle East. But the company continues to deny allegations that it agreed to sell an Israeli operation in order to be removed from an Arab blacklist of companies that do business with Israel. Federal officials are investigating whether Baxter sold the Israeli plant to clear the way for the Syrian operation, which would have been in violation of a U.S. law against cooperating with the Arab boycott. Baxter agreed in 1990 to build a plant to manufacture intravenous solutions in Syria, although that country remains on the U.S. government's list of countries said to be aiding and harbouring terrorists. "We had only one intention in agreeing to build in Syria," Baxter Chairman Vernon R. Loucks Jr. said in a statement released from its suburban Deerfield headquarters. "We intended to bring Baxter's life-saving health-care products more directly to the people of the Arab World." "The volatile situation throughout the Middle East and controversy surrounding Syria in particular now lead us to change our plan," Loucks said. He noted that Baxter products will still be available in the Middle East through distributors, and that Israel continues to be the company's largest Middle East trading partner. Loucks, commenting on the federal probe, said Baxter "has done nothing wrong." "Baxter will cooperate, as it has all along, with the government's study," he said. Baxter is the world's largest supplier of hospital supplies, with sales exceeding \$8 billion last year.

## Iraq pledges to return Kuwait's museum art

PARIS (R) — Iraq said on Monday art works taken from Kuwait during its occupation of the emirate were shipped to Baghdad for protection against U.S. bombings and would be returned, a U.N. agency said. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) said it had received assurance from Iraqi delegate Aziz Haidar that Kuwaiti museum pieces were "preserved in the Iraqi national museum pending their transfer to Kuwait by mutual agreement... under United Nations supervision." Haidar said a U.N. envoy had visited Baghdad and seen the Kuwaiti museum pieces. UNESCO said earlier that Kuwait had asked it to help prevent the sale of tens of thousands of valuable pieces of art stolen during the eight-month Iraqi occupation. UNESCO said it would supply the international police organisation Interpol with details of items missing from the Kuwait national museum and other Kuwaiti collections. Kuwait had asked for UNESCO's help under the 1970 convention on preventing the illicit sale of cultural property.

## WFP chief to visit Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — World Food Programme executive Director James Ingram will arrive in Khartoum on Friday to discuss how Sudan has been affected by the fall of the Marxist government in Ethiopia, radio Omdurman said. The state-run radio said on Tuesday that Ingram's visit is part of a tour of the region after the collapse of the Addis Ababa government which sent fresh waves of refugees flooding across Ethiopia's borders. Sudan has accused the international community of ignoring its pleas for aid for the refugees. The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said almost 140,000 Ethiopians had crossed its frontier by Sunday but thousands more were coming every day. Before the latest influx, Sudan was already host to more than a million refugees, mainly from Eritrea. Minister of Culture and Information Abdalla Mohammad Ahmed said Sudan, struggling to keep its own people fed, has flown 30 tonnes of emergency food and medicines to Somalia. Ahmed, who is due to start a European tour to seek help for the Ethiopian refugees, told SUNA five more aid flights would be sent to Somalia.

## Iraqis sceptical of government's democracy talk

By Jonathan Wright  
Reuters

BAGHDAD — In quiet corners of Baghdad and out of official earshot, Iraqis let down their guard.

The way many of them see the events of the past year, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the allied campaign to win it back and the uprising in March against President Saddam Hussein, has little in common with the official version.

The Iraqi government says the United States and its allies had already decided to destroy Iraq, Kuwait was Iraqi territory and Iraqi forces fought valiantly against overwhelming odds to defend the country from an evil conspiracy.

This cuts little ice on the streets of Baghdad, where Western visitors are more likely to be invited home for tea than insulted or accused of crimes against humanity.

In the absence of opinion polls and independent sources of information, it is hazardous to generalise about the true state of Iraqi public opinion.

But lengthy discussions with scores of Iraqis, spread over a three-week visit, suggest that only a small minority would mourn the departure of Saddam, his family and the Baath Party loyalists who surround him.

Thousands of people, deeply sceptical of government promises of freedom and democracy, have made up their minds to leave the country as soon as the coast is clear, Baghdad residents say.

"The next time I go, I will go of my own free will and I will not look back," said Hussein, a middle-aged civil servant who was posted abroad in the 1980s. Hussein, not his real name, said that while abroad he had often thought of defecting but hesitated for fear of reprisals against his family in Iraq.

One diplomat called home after Iraqi embassies closed down last year said that even before the crisis he found his government's policies difficult to sell. "Now it would be impossible, unless..." he said. His voice trailed off, the unspoken words unspoken.

Ministers say the government has had to be tough because the country has been in crisis for most

of the past two decades.

"This country needs strong leadership because it is an unstable part of the world. You cannot expect such societies to turn into democracies overnight," Culture and Information Minister Hamid Youssef Hammadi said.

An independent businessman in his 60s reminisced with nostalgia about the "good old days" before the Baath Party came to power.

The Baath Party wiped out all political alternatives over the past 23 years of unchallenged rule and new generations of Iraqis had no experience of political liberalism, he lamented.

Hammadi said the Baath Party decided to reform itself in 1980 but the process was held up by the war with Iran. Now it was willing to abandon its privileged status and compete equally with other political parties.

For many Iraqi men in their 30s, who have spent up to 10 years in the army, the past now looks like a waste and the future is bleak.

Salem, for example, studied and loved English literature before he was drafted into the army in 1980 to fight the Iraqis. When he met his professor eight years later, he told him, "Milton and Chaucer? I have forgotten these things. I just count myself lucky to be alive."

Salem had arranged a job in Europe with a university friend from the Gulf and came back to Baghdad last July to sell his house and pack up.

"On Aug. 2 (when Iraq invaded Kuwait) I lost everything, when my friend called me later, I didn't know what to say," Tears welled in his eyes and the muscles of his face tightened to hold back the emotion.

He recalled how he saw two dazed Kuwaitis wandering the streets of Baghdad last September. He approached them in pity, offered them money and invited them home to stay. "We know it is not your fault," they told him.

A pious Shi'ite Muslim, formerly a sergeant-major in a tank battalion, said he thought Iraq's troubles were divine retribution. "Retribution for what?" I asked. "For him," he said, pointing over his shoulder towards Baghdad.

U.S. cannot predict withdrawal date  
Washington says no evidence of Iraqi attack on Shi'ites

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. defence department said on Monday it had no evidence to support an Iranian report that Iraq's army had launched an offensive against hundreds of thousands of fugitives trapped in the marshes of southeast Iraq.

"There has been some continuing low-level military activity, clashes between the Iraqi army and Shi'ites in that area for the past few weeks. But there is no evidence of a major attack," Pentagon Spokesman Pete Williams said.

Iranian television reported that explosions were heard on the Iranian side of the border on Monday. Iranian leaders and Iraqi exiles said earlier they feared a massacre of Shi'ite Muslim refugees and that Iraq's troops might use poison gas.

Williams told Reuters U.S. intelligence indicated there were some continued clashes in the area involving the Iraqi military and refugees who fled into the marshes.

Hundreds of thousands of people fled Iraqi cities in March when the army crushed post-Gulf war revolts against the Iraqi president. Unlike Kurds in the North, where a similar exodus took place, southerners mostly fled eastward and few escaped into Iran.

U.S. and allied troops occupied southern Iraq for weeks after the war but have since been withdrawn.

Iraqi refugees have begun trickling back to the south of their homeland from Iran despite reports of an Iraqi attack on hundreds of thousands of their compatriots, U.N. officials said on Tuesday.

A spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in the Iranian City of Ahwaz said 65 families totalling about 300 people had crossed back into Iraq in the last three weeks.

"When you consider the report about what's happening in Iraq, it's a mystery that these refugees should go back. What made them do it?" he said.

Iranian television said Iraqi troops launched an offensive on Monday against hundreds of thousands of fugitives trapped in the marshes of southeastern Iraq. It said explosions heard from the Iranian side of the border signalled the start of an attack.

Iraq denied reports at the weekend that it was planning an offensive in the marshes.

The U.N. spokesman in Ahwaz said the returning refugees had been allowed back into Iraq through the border crossing at Shalamcheh, north of the war-ravaged Iranian city of Khorramshahr and near Iraq's second city of Basra.

Hundreds of thousands of people fled Iraq in March when the army crushed rebellions after the Gulf war.

Iran estimates that up to a million people are hiding in the marshes, including defeated rebels and deserters from Iraqi units smashed by the United States and its allies in the war.

Although Kurds have been returning to the north, where the Gulf war allies set up a security zone, this was the first word of Shi'ite Muslims from the south making their way back home.

The spokesman said the returning southerners had been given three days food supply by Iranian

authorities. But most of the Shi'ite refugees accommodated in half a dozen camps in Iran's Khuzestan province say they will not go back as long as President Saddam Hussein and his Baath Party hold power in Iraq.

"Saddam and his party must be removed, otherwise people will stay in Iran forever," said an elderly man at the Ashraf Isfahani Camp near the city of Dezful, north of Ahwaz.

The refugees appeared to have little independent information about events in Iraq, but they expressed fear over Saddam's intentions.

The United States also said a milestone was reached when the United Nations assumed responsibility on Friday for Iraqi refugee relief efforts but it could not predict when U.S. troops leave northern Iraq.

"A milestone in operation provide comfort was achieved on Friday, June 7, with the transition of humanitarian relief efforts for Iraqi refugees in northern Iraq from U.S. forces to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters.

"Operation Provide Comfort has accomplished most of its major goals," she said, referring to the relief effort's military side. Responding to reports U.S.-led allied forces planned to leave Iraq by the end of the month, Tutwiler said.

"As far as for the United States, there's no date that's been set for the withdrawal of our forces or all coalition forces that I personally am aware of."

Allied personnel involved in Operation Provide Comfort: down to 18,381 people, from a peak of 21,170.

Kurdish guerrilla leaders told Reuters in Iraq on Friday they were informed by U.S.-led allies that tentative plans to begin withdrawing the foreign troops in the month had been shelved for now.

After the U.S.-led coalition forced Iraq from Kuwait in February, many Iraqis rose against President Saddam Hussein.

When the revolt failed, up to two million Iraqi Kurds fled to the Turkish and Iranian borders to escape reprisals. Allied troops were then called in to organise relief efforts.

Tutwiler said in little more than two months, the allies stopped dying in mountain refugee camps and delivered more than 34 million pounds 15.4 million kilograms of supplies.

As of last Friday, the UNHCR is responsible for overall management of the humanitarian effort.

The task includes coordinating nongovernmental and private voluntary organisations, providing food distribution, water, health care, shelter and social services, to the Iraqi refugees and displaced persons, she said.

Coalition forces continue to support U.N. efforts, with transfer of excess supplies and equipment, ranging from food and paper plates, to vehicles, generators and tents.

Also, they are providing some specialised medical assistance, transportation assistance, fuel, communications and civil-military liaison for the relief effort, she said.

## Ruined Iranian city waits for fresh disaster

KHORRAMSHAHR, Iran (R) — Devastated in the Iran-Iraq war, then flooded with refugees after the latest Gulf conflict, the Iranian city of Khorramshahr watches and waits to see if a new disaster will be enacted on its doorstep, across the Shatt Al-Arab waterway in southern Iraq.

This was once a flourishing port of 270,000 people. Most of them fled before Iraq captured the city soon after invading Iran

in 1980. Now perhaps 10,000 people eke out a living in its ruins.

Some of them are Iraqi refugees, Shi'ite Muslims like the Iranians, who fled to Iran after Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein put down an uprising in the wake of his defeat in Kuwait in March.

There is little awareness here of what is going on now in Iraq. The flow of refugees has slowed to a trickle, according to Red

Cross officials in the Khuzestan provincial capital of Ahwaz.

Iran, however, has expressed concern at reports by United Nations officials that Saddam may be planning an offensive against some half a million refugees in the marshes west of the Iranian border, Baghdad has denied it.

Tehran Radio said on Sunday Iran could not remain indifferent to such a move, which would

affect its security and economy.

Some 2,500 refugees live in a camp at Khorramshahr, according to the Red Cross. Another transit camp has been closed as the refugees are moved further inland.

Some refugees are squatting in houses. Mohammad Abbas Hamza and eight relatives who fled Iraq in two cars earlier this year, crossed the border at Shalamcheh, north of here.

## Israeli academicians, generals present new peace plan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A group comprising nearly 200 influential Israeli academicians and senior reserve army officers on Monday presented a new peace plan calling for the formation of an independent Palestinian state.

The council of "peace in stages" said its peace plan has received widespread support from Israelis and Palestinians alike.

The programme envisages a Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip after a five-year trial period and in exchange for a full-fledged peace with Israel's neighbours.

In addition, terror acts against Israel and the Palestinian revolt in the occupied areas would stop immediately.

The plan says the Palestinian state would be deprived of having its own army in the first decade of its existence, while Israel would have the right to send its forces into the Palestinian state if a foreign army enters it.

Limited Israeli military forces would be stationed along the border between Jordan and the new Palestinian state in the first five years of its existence.

Jerusalem would remain under the Israeli sovereignty, with separate municipal elections in the

annexed eastern part of the city. Israel's new borders would include new Jewish neighbourhoods built there since Israel captured East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war.

Representatives of the main faiths would administer their respective holy sites.

At its first convention, held in Jerusalem Monday, the group issued a statement saying it was driven by a feeling that "political stalemate provides a serious threat to the state of Israel."

On the other hand, a peace agreement without long term provisions for security and without a process of confidence-building measures is no less a danger," it said.

It characterised the programme as dealing "with the root of the real problems of the conflict in our region in a clear, thorough and bold manner."

The new peace plan seriously differs from the Israeli government's official stand. The government is only ready to offer the Palestinians limited self-rule or autonomy, and opposes an independent state.

"Today, the Palestinians have no chance to have a state of their own. This plan offers them a state in five years. True, it stipulates severe limitations... but they will

accept this plan, not because it is so good for them but because it is less worse than others," said one of the council's initiators, Shmuel Toledano.

Among the members — respected political scientists Yehuda Bauer, Amnon Sela and Moshe Maoz; military analysts such as Aharon Yariv of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv; former military and security leaders like ex-deputy Air Force Commander Brig. Gen. (res.) Giora Furman and Reuven Hazak, former deputy head of Israel's Shin Bet security service.

In its statement, the council said it is "not currently connected nor shall be connected in the future to any political body."

But Toledano, speaking on Israeli television, said the council wants political parties to adopt its programme.

"At this point, it seems the labour Party might do it," he said in reference to Israel's main opposition party. "But we would prefer it to be adopted by the ruling Likud (bloc), and we will make every effort for the sake of that."



What future?... As statesmen tangle, life goes on for Palestinians in the occupied territories, like this woman carrying her child to a United Nations health clinic in a Gaza Strip refugee camp (File photo)

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
16:00	Koran
16:15	Programme review
16:25	Children's programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo news message
18:30	Local programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Arabic programme
22:00	News in Arabic
22:30	Play
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Children's programme
18:30	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	News in Hebrew
20:30	After Hour
21:30	Our House
22:00	News in English
22:30	Not A Penny More, Not A Penny Less
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622566	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 777751	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and clear calm.	
Min./max. temp.	

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman	14 / 26
Aqaba	22 / 35
Deir	14 / 31
Jordan Valley	19 / 34
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
AMBULANCE	743500
Dr. Saad Tawfiq	788285
Dr. Abdel Odeh Lala	696048
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali	740740
First Pharmacy	661912
Perdons pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nisourah pharmacy	626672
Al Salim pharmacy	636750
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shimseini pharmacy	637660
NIGHT DUTY	
Dr. Ziad Al A'raj	(—)
Al Shams pharmacy	(275825)

ZARQA:	14 / 26
Dr. Rabab Al Borini	(—)
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 631111, 637771
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630921
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	636750
Complaints	897461
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information	661111
(Directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	

Repairs	623101
Abdell Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	515615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	613813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	6442816
Al-Rabha Maternity, J. Amn.	6424112
Jabal Amman Maternity	642622
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsani	6641714
Shamsani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	943845
Al-Munther Hospital	6672279
The Islamic, Abdell	66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdell	661646
Al-Mahjoub	7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Amman	7751126
Army, Marik	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	60224050
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)98732
IBRB:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital	(02)247100
ADABIA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

Queen Alia Hospital .....	602240/50
Amal Hospital .....	674155
ZARGA	
Zarga Govt. Hospital .....	(09)983223
Zarga National Hospital .....	(09)991071
El Sina Hospital .....	(09)986732
BRIDGES	
Greenwich Banana Hospital .....	(02)275555
Grace Catholic Hospital .....	(02)272775
El Al Nafoes Hospital .....	(02)247100
ADANA	
Princeton Hays Hospital .....	(03)314511

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALIA  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
(Terminal 1)**



Tawjihi students intent on their papers Tuesday, the first day of examinations (Petra photo)

## Tawjihi examinations started

AMMAN (J.T.) — More than 62,000 students who completed their secondary education Tuesday embarked on the second and final session of tawjihi examinations set by the Ministry of Education for schools in Jordan.

Minister of Education Abdullah Al Akaleh toured a number of halls where the students are sitting for the examinations which would last nine days. His tour took him to halls in Zarqa, Ruseifa, Yajouz, Awajan and

Hittin refugee camp where he inspected the progress of the examination and talked with a number of students.

Later, the minister was briefed by supervisors about the arrangements made for the students. According to the Ministry of Education, a total of 62,749 students are taking the examinations in the scientific, literary, commercial, agricultural, industrial, nursing and hotel management streams.

The Ministry of Education has prepared 837 examination halls for the students in the country and one hall in Tunis for the students following the Jordanian system.

Ministry of Education officials said results could not be expected before the end of the next month, although marking of the papers and evaluating the students' work starts immediately after each examination.

## Jordan appeals for assistance in agriculture at WFC talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan submitted to the World Food Council (WFC), which has just concluded meetings in Copenhagen — Denmark, a detailed report about its agriculture development plans, and appealed for United Nations assistance to help it implement them in order to increase food production.

Jordan's appeal was submitted by Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh who took part in the four-day meetings dedicated to discussing chronic issues like poverty and hunger and assistance to developing nations to increase food production. Mr. Alawneh told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that his appeal to the council he had pointed out that the agricultural sector provides income to nearly 12 per cent of the Jordanian people and constitutes a basic pillar in the socio-economic development programme of the Kingdom.

The appeal came in a working paper which called for stepped up cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture in Jordan and the World Food Programme (WFP), especially in the field of reclaim-

ing land for agriculture, according to Mr. Alawneh.

The paper noted that Jordan was exerting all efforts to boost food production and had been setting up dams to harvest rain water to create pasture lands for the livestock.

The minister held a meeting with the Danish minister of agriculture to discuss ways by which Jordan can benefit from Denmark's vast experience in the dairy industry; he toured a number of dairies to examine their works.

The WFC provides overall, integrated and continued attention to coordinating policies on food production, nutrition, food security, food trade and food aid. The council reviews problems, proposes actions and issues recommendations; it coordinates the activities of the United Nations, connected to food problems, and cooperates with regional bodies to formulate and follow up the approved policies.

According to the council's list of activities, priorities are: increasing food production in developing nations, creating an international grain reserve as part

of a world food security system increasing and improving food aid, improving nutrition in developing countries and reducing barriers in food trade between developing and developed states.

Mr. Alawneh said that the WFC had issued a set of recommendations, at the end of the meetings, calling for increased aid from the rich industrialised nations to the countries of the Third World to boost their agricultural production.

Mr. Alawneh said that the council particularly stressed the need for assistance to be allocated for poor countries trying to utilise land for food production and urged developed countries to provide the necessary expertise.

He said that the council also urged developed nations to open their markets to Third World agricultural products so as to encourage them to increase their output.

He said that the council had expressed dissatisfaction with the present level of assistance provided to the poorer nations of the world and said that aid should be directed towards ending poverty and hunger.

## Report shows roads claim 22 lives, injure 789 in May

## 4 killed in tragic road accident

By Ghazi Haddad  
Special to the Jordan Times

MAFRAQ — Four citizens, three of them belonging to the same family, were killed and 11 others injured in a horrible road accident on the Mafrag-Zarqa highway near Al Dajaniyah bridge. The condition of the injured was described as stable.

Brigadier Abdul Raouf Hussein, director of the Police Department here, said in a statement to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i that the casualties resulted from a head-on collision between a private car and a taxi.

The private car, coming from Irbid and heading towards Amman via Mafrag, overtook a line of cars ahead and hit an oncoming car, heading towards Irbid. Both cars were moving at very high speed, according to Brig. Hussein.

He gave the names of those killed as Malek Mohammad Tawalbeh (16), Mohammad Tawalbeh (10), Fatimah Tawalbeh (60), and Nadia Al Sayyed

(8). The drivers of the two cars were among those injured and carried to hospitals in Mafrag and Irbid for treatment. Hospital sources reported the injured in stable condition, and the police were holding an investigation.

In another development, 22 citizens were killed and 789 others were injured in 1,797 road accidents which occurred in Jordan in the past month, according to a statement by the Public Security Department (PSD) Tuesday.

The number of deaths and injured in May were 25 and 264 respectively, less than those of the previous month, the statement noted.

According to the statement, 1,164 of these accidents occurred in Amman while the rest were in Irbid, Zarqa, Balqa, Karak, Mafrag, Agaba, Maan, Madaba and Tafleeh.

The PSD said that most of the accidents were caused by lack of care in driving and non-observance by traffic regulations.

## Jordan, Italy tackle aid programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint Jordanian-Italian economic committee is due to open meeting in Rome Wednesday to discuss Jordanian projects which would be financed through an Italian technical assistance programme to the Kingdom.

A statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the three-day meetings would also focus attention on prospects of Italy contributing towards financing a tomato paste processing plant at Mafrag and a printing school to be set up by the Ministry of Education.

Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah who is heading the Jordanian side to the Rome meetings said in a statement shortly before leaving Amman that the two sides would agree on a timetable for the implementation of the Karak Hospital which Italy had promised to finance.

Talks he said would also cover Italy's food aid to Jordan in 1992 and 1993 in addition to emergency aid that would be used to help the national economy and deal with the consequences of the Gulf crisis on the Kingdom.

Dr. Abdullah is accompanied on the trip to Rome by officials from the ministries of health, education and planning.

In his statement before departure, the minister voiced Jordan's appreciation to Switzerland for allocating \$40 million as a grant to help the Jordanian economy. He said that Switzerland had originally earmarked only \$25 million but later raised the sum to \$40 million. The grant is part of a \$100 million in aid to countries severely affected by the Gulf crisis and approved by the Swiss Parliament.

## Eyewitness report describes methods of torture

## Human rights violations continue in Kuwait

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanians and Palestinians leaving Kuwait are still reporting cases of torture, detention, deportation and death, by Kuwaiti armed mobs, despite international pressure on the Kuwaiti government to put an end to such acts.

An eyewitness report obtained by the Jordan Times spoke of the difficulties faced by the Jordanian and Palestinian residents of Kuwait following the withdrawal of Iraqi forces on Feb. 26. The writer, Taher Abdul Jabbar, is a Palestinian who worked at the Fatch office in Kuwait.

"What is written in this report, I have seen in my own eyes and I investigated the other part before leaving Kuwait on the May 21, 1991," Mr. Abdul Jabbar wrote.

In his report Mr. Abdul Jabbar mentioned 24 methods of torture administered on Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait. The most shocking and severe acts of torture included in the report are, in his own words: "Undressing the internees completely and beating them on the sensitive parts of their body. Extinguishing cigarettes on internees' bodies. Cutting the flesh of internees' bodies using a nail clipper. Cutting the flesh of internees' bodies using a knife and forcing them to chew their own flesh. Shaving the internees' hair and forcing them to swallow the hair with water. Skinning the back of internees, using a fish scaling tool, until the skin is removed from the flesh, then sprinkling salt over the wound. Hammering nails into the skin and exposing the bodies to electrical shocks. Drilling the skull using an electrical drill. It is worth mentioning that one incident at least

was registered for a martyr from Kabatia and another incident for a young man where his hands and legs were drilled. Penetrating the internee's anal cavity with a bottle of Coca Cola. An incident was registered where a bottle was inserted into an older man's anus causing his death. Forcing the internees to commit sodomy among themselves or having Kuwaiti soldiers rape them. Pulling out the nails of internees using pincers. Forcing internees to lick the saliva of the soldiers and making them drink their urine. Placing the internees in trunks of cars, locking them up and parking these cars under the burning sun. Depriving them of food and water for days. Threats to rape internees' mothers, daughters and sisters. Drawing blood from the internee's bodies using it to write slogans against the PLO. Palestinians and Jordanians on the walls of the prisons.

"These are some of the methods of torture that we have witnessed or heard of but there could be some still unknown to us," the report read. Mr. Abdul Jabbar also wrote about some of the most notorious military prisons where scores of Jordanians and Palestinians were detained and tortured describing them as "the dirtiest, toughest prisons."

Furthermore, he added that some coastal villas were used by armed militias to hide people whom they kidnapped, tortured and later brutally killed. "These (coastal villas) are used by militias, where people who are kidnapped are dragged there to be tortured. There are many who have disappeared and others killed," the report read.

Mr. Abdul Jabbar gave examples of such practices which included raping and killing a

young man and throwing his body on the beach, kidnapping and raping two girls from an area near Al Hammiri school, breaking the spine of a man, and killing a doctor, who had a paralysed leg, through torture.

"The American Embassy in Kuwait is well aware of all the details of these tragedies, since both Palestinians and Jordanians go to report the mistreatment and human rights violations," Mr. Abdul Jabbar said. "I learnt later on from people who went to the embassy that they were only given promises, but nothing was done about it," he added.

Mr. Abdul Jabbar also sent out an appeal to the world community to put an end to what he described as "ridiculous martial trials," against Jordanians and Palestinians who stand trial in Kuwait, accused of collaborating with the Iraqis.

On the other hand, an Amnesty International news release said that the court pro-

ceedings in Kuwait were "unfair" and called for their immediate halt "until they can be brought into line with international standards."

"The trials so far have been defective in all the critical phases in the pre-trial period, during the hearings themselves and afterwards in the lack of defendants' right to appeal to a higher tribunal," Amnesty International said in its news release. "We are appealing to the Kuwaiti authorities to call a halt to the trials until all the defendants can be guaranteed fair trials."

"Unfair trials are had enough in cases where defendants face penalties of imprisonment," the news release read, "but they are absolutely intolerable where the penalty is death."

The London-based human rights organisation, also expressed concern over the continuous human rights violations and accused the Kuwaiti authorities of lagging in taking

proper action against such practices.

The organisation's delegate to the trials, has also reported that prisoners who are tried as collaborators, are being tortured beforehand. The representative said that he personally saw two prisoners, when he visited Al Farwaniya hospital, who appeared to have been tortured.

Describing the prisoners, the representative said that one was an older man with "bruises on his neck and lacerations across his chest as if he had been repeatedly whipped," and the other "had injuries on his thighs and holes burned in the soles of his feet. Hospital staff said this was done with a cigarette lighters."

The organisation also said in its news release that "defendants were cut off from the outside world between their arrest and trial, (and) mostly denied access to families, lawyers or independent doctors."

## Helayel inspects pilgrims' conditions in holy places

MEDINA (Petra) — Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Secretary-General Ahmad Helayel, head of the Jordanian pilgrimage team, Tuesday inspected the Jordanian pilgrims' housing estate, and looked closely at the services offered to them.

Dr. Helayel also met with pilgrims and representatives of transport companies, which carried pilgrims to the holy places in Saudi Arabia. He urged them to ensure the comfort of pilgrims and to provide the best services for them.

In another meeting, with head and members of the Jordanian medical team accompanying pilgrims, Dr. Helayel stressed the need to provide appropriate health care to pilgrims and to promote health awareness among them.

On Monday, Saudi Haj and Awqaf Minister Abdul Wahab Abdul Wasi' received, Dr. Helayel and discussed with him the measures taken by the Saudi Haj and Awqaf Ministry to facilitate the performance of pilgrimage.

Dr. Helayel voiced appreciation to the Saudi government for the facilities it provided for pilgrims.

The two officials stressed the important role scholars and preachers can play in enhancing Islamic fraternity during the Haj season which witnesses the largest gathering of all Muslims. Abdul Wasi' and Dr. Helayel also stressed the need for strengthening existing cooperation between the two countries in all Islamic fields.

In a Haj-related development, the central committee for distributing meat of slaughtered animals in Mecca discussed issues pertaining to the distribution of meat to the needy families. Karak Deputy Governor Eid Al Alaya, who chaired the committee meeting, said that priority in receiving such meat will be given to beneficiaries from the National Aid Fund and the Alms Fund.

## Jordan, Germany discuss technical, financial cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian and German officials and technicians opened talks at the Ministry of Planning Tuesday to discuss technical and financial assistance to Jordan in the coming two years and to pave the ground for broader negotiations, due to be held by the two sides in Amman before the end of 1991.

According to a statement by the Ministry of Planning, the talks aim to define the volume of technical and financial assistance which Germany plans to offer to the Kingdom.

Germany has been providing Jordan with financial and technical assistance in different areas, especially in developing the Kingdom's agricultural sector.

The talks, which would continue over the coming days, are conducted by a Jordanian team led by Ministry of Planning Secretary-General Safwan Touqan and Mr. Liptau, head of the Middle East Department of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the German team is expected to spend a week in Jordan during which its members will visit various ministries concerned with the German technical assistance programme to Jordan, particularly the ministries of agriculture and water and irrigation.

According to a German Embassy press release, the talks will focus on various projects in the fields of technical and financial cooperation. It said that the talks were considered consultations, which take place annually, alternatively in Germany and in Jordan.

The German delegation comprises Matthias Meyer, charge d'affaires at the German embassy, Mr. Liptau, Mr. Von Aulock, head of Department for Jordan of the Bank for Reconstruction, Mr. Kher, head of Near and Middle East Division at the GTZ, (the German Agency for Technical Cooperation) and Dr. Geinitz, head of section for Jordan at GTZ.

In 1990 and 1991 Germany made considerable efforts in helping Jordan to overcome losses resulting from the Gulf crisis. In addition to the regular technical and financial cooperation, 180 million DM, in 1990 and 150 million DM, in 1991, we granted as united commodity.

The consultations come at a time when consequences of the Gulf crisis on the Jordanian economy, as well as on the German-Jordanian projects, have to be evaluated and technical and financial cooperation has to find its path back to its pre crisis level, the press release said.

## Jordanian, Syrian officials hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Syrian Transport Minister Yousef Ahmad Tuesday arrived here on a several-day official visit during which he will head the Syrian delegation to the meetings of the General Assembly of the Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company and the Jordanian-Syrian Navigation Company to start here Wednesday (today).

In an arrival statement, Mr. Ahmad said that his visit to Jordan was in response to an invitation extended to him by his Jordanian counterpart Jamal Al Saraireh.

He added that two general assemblies of the two joint transport companies would undertake an assessment of the progress of the two companies and look into the best means for making significant progress.

On the transfer of the border post, from its current site in Ramtha, to Jaber village, Mr. Ahmad said the subject would be debated by the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, which will take a decision on the matter.

## Municipality grants land to sports clubs

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Municipal Committee Tuesday adopted a decision allocating plots of land from the municipality's property to Al Faisali, Al Jazirah and Qadisiyah clubs, which do not have their own headquarters.

At a special meeting, held under the chairmanship of Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat, the committee approved the allocation of land to these three clubs provided that they start construction within three years.

The committee also approved the value of a tender for improving Prince Mohammad Street. The tender value exceeded by 30 per cent the original. The increase covers compensation, extra work and changes of plans.

## Pharmacists meet in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) will take part in the one-day meeting of the Arab Pharmacists Union's Higher Council in Cairo Wednesday (today). The meeting will pave the ground for the Higher Council's meeting, to be held in Tripoli between October 13-15. The delegation is headed by the JPA President Husam Eddine Mismar.



## Iraqi artist displays desert life paintings

By Maha Addasi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Alia Art Gallery Thursday, started displaying painting by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman.

The 50 canvases displayed, under the theme of "Man and the Desert," mirror desert colours and the daily life of bedouins. A leitmotif in many of his paintings is the bedouin tent and people — usually in pairs — going about their activities.

"The reason why I show people in pairs is to emphasise the interaction between people in the desert and their interdependence in their daily lives," Mr. Salman said, adding that he makes sure that the figures are spread out over the entire painting for balance.

Mr. Salman's use of colour and space is an accurate reproduction of desert scenes, but the way he portrays these scenes is original, giving him a style that is unique.

The artist does not paint the characters' facial features and expressions, but shows how people fit in the entire theme as they walk in the desert or sit together by their tents.

A few paintings look almost as if the artist had enlarged a photograph and framed it. These photographic paintings are so extremely real one gets the impression that the people and camels in the painting could step out of the frame at any moment.

The large expanse of sand in

these pictures is painted in all the natural desert hues, the sky has the sunset colours and this gives a contrast between the reds and pinks of the sky and the yellows and browns of the sand.

Also on display are some abstract pieces with colours applied onto the canvases layer over layer to give depth and distance. In one such painting the deep black centre has only a few red spots to brighten it up. The centre comes in deep contrast with the outer areas of the frame which features very bright colours. The dark centre is indicative of a bedouin tent whereas the surrounding colours indicate people.

Mr. Salman received a Bachelors Degree in fine arts from the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad in 1967. He taught art in Iraq and Saudi Arabia which is when he became "preoccupied in the desert to the point of obsession." He participated in several collective exhibitions in Iraq, but also had five solos.

In 1983 he was allocated some working space and an exhibition hall in one of Iraq's large hotels. This came to an end with the beginning of the Gulf war.

Mr. Salman's art is on sale with prices ranging between JD 80 and JD 650. The exhibition, which was opened under the patronage of Anis Muasher, the director of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, will last until June 14.

## WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITION

- ★ Exhibition of photographs by Bernard Gelliot at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman at Alia Art Gallery, Insurance Building, 1st Circle.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showej Shokhal, Mohammad Al Jalous and Rihaj Al Razzan at Abdul Hameed Shomaa Foundation (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975  
جوردن تايمز مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
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Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Tel.: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## Shamir's demands and Arabs' false hopes

IN ITS attempts to dictate the terms and conditions of the peace conference on the Middle East, Israel is not only opposing PLO participation but is now seeking to control the composition of any Palestinian team to the talks. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is now on record as insisting on vetoing the names of Palestinians in any joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation who are suspected of being associated with the PLO or are citizens of occupied Jerusalem. This latest hardening Israeli stance came on the heels of U.S. President George Bush's "gentle" letter to Shamir offering to scrub Arab and international demands for an effective U.N. role in the peace talks in return for a freeze on Israeli settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There is little doubt that Washington's friendly approach towards Tel Aviv is only wetting the Israeli appetite for more and more insolent demands. When will it ever dawn on the U.S. that its soft glove posture towards Israel is only causing an avalanche of old and new Israeli obstacles in the path of the quest for a permanent and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflicts? As Washington is not about to reverse its worn out policies towards the Jewish state either now or ever, one might as well kiss the so-called peace process goodbye. It is much wiser to reckon with the hard facts about the Israeli plans and policies and accept them for what they are than to indulge in wishful thinking and day dreaming. One has got to be very naive not to believe that the illusive peace process is nothing but a mirage that aims more than anything else at intoxicating the Arabs with false hopes. True there is not much that the Arab parties can do about the time-honoured Israeli intransigence. The sober Arabs have always suspected that as long as there is no strategic balance between the Arab countries of the Middle East and Israel there is no way to move the peace process one iota unless Washington is willing to apply some pressure and arms twisting. And since this is not in the cards, and the Arab states are not likely to succeed on attaining a military strategic balance with Israel, especially after the catastrophic Gulf war and U.S. arms control proposals, the Arab parties would better be advised to take stock of their fortunes, which are few, and their misfortunes, which are plenty, and act accordingly.

What viable options are now available to the concerned Arab countries is something that needs thorough soul searching and meticulous calculations. Uppermost on the minds of Arab policy-makers is whether to opt for containment of Israeli expansionism or to plunge into plans to reverse the Israeli occupation of Arab territories no matter what such alternatives may mean and imply in intermediate and long terms. It appears that in this vein the Arab order lacks a strategy even at this late hour. Unless Arab leaders get their heads together and come out with a coherent and practical strategy, there is no ending to the confusion that exists among their ranks till now and there will be no end to Israeli intransigence. And given the aftereffects of the Gulf crisis, the chances of the Arab states forging a common strategy that is real and more than one inch deep looks bleak at this stage of the game. All this spells doom and gloom as far as the peace process is concerned and it is high time that the Arabs realise the bitter truth and commence search for valid and meaningful alternatives.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al RAI daily Tuesday discussed the National Charter endorsed by the representatives of the Jordanian people on Sunday and said that it came to complete a democratic process began in 1989. The November general elections of 1989 were a step in the right direction of democracy, but it remained incomplete without the Charter which opened the way for political parties and political pluralism to function in the country, said the daily. By voting in favour of the National Charter, said the paper, the 2000 prominent personalities who represent all sectors of the Jordanian public have thus blessed the democratic process and vowed to do anything in their power to protect it. The daily noted that the National Charter was a reflection of the Jordanian people's political awareness, and can by all means serve the Jordanian family at present and in the future because it provides for political, social and economic development in a free atmosphere. The paper recalled King Hussein's words in addressing the National Congress in which he reminded the audience that no single party can monopolise the government nor can it claim to be the only wise group that should impose its views on the others.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily criticises the confusion in the political and resistance activities conducted by the general command of the Palestinian intifada in the Israeli-held Arab territories and demands that the various factions should pool their resources if they wish to achieve their aspirations. Taher Udwam refers to the ongoing killings of individuals and the open clashes between Hamas and its opponents and says that such development can only be detrimental to the Palestinian resistance movement and can only serve the Israeli interests. The writer notes that the intifada has been drawing its strength so far from a wide base represented in the Palestinian masses, but now the momentum is declining largely due to the differences among the various factions and groups, and the ongoing killings of Palestinians committed by opponents. The general command of the intifada has clearly failed so far to put an end to the internal conflicts, and proved unable to stop the killings; and therefore the time has come for these factions to call a truce and meet to solve these problems, the writer adds. He says should it be impossible to arrange for such an important gathering inside the occupied lands, a parley can be convened outside Palestine where all issues can be discussed freely so that efforts can be pooled towards attaining the common aspirations.

## Economic Forum

# What is wrong with the budget deficit?

By Dr. Abdullah Malik

SEEING the constant fever that seemingly grips everybody around regarding the budget deficit. I always wanted to ask what was wrong with it. What is so wrong with this deficit that it is being treated as the ultimate evil and the cardinal economic vice? I think this is neither right nor fair.

Once upon a time, and following the Keynesian traditions, a fiscal deficit was sometimes, or even most of the time, treated as a productive imbalance. A deficit entails spending which means buying more goods and services and thus invigorating effective demand. This means more production and thereby more output (or income), more capital formation (investment), more job opportunities, etc. Obviously this is virtuous circle.

The story is different nowadays in Jordan. It is conceived that the budget deficit entails more borrowing by the treasury to finance higher levels of spending. This leads to higher levels of external indebtedness, more imports, depleting Jordan's foreign exchange reserves, pressure on the Jordanian dinar, inability to service external debt and to economic chaos.

Let us start by saying that the case of budget deficit in Jordan, the related hearings, the jury and eventually the verdict are particular to Jordan and hardly good for generalisation. The case is being heard in the context of our relationship with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The priority goal here is ultimately to enhance Jordan's capacity to repay our international debt. In the process, the IMF tries to hit another target which is promoting the case for a more open market economy in Jordan. As it has not

been apparently possible to cut public spending as much as necessary to close the budget gap and because tax revenues have become unincreasable any more, the way to suppress the remaining budget gap is to lift subsidies on food and fuel prices. Because it cannot be blatant enough to demand the outright adoption of measures which result into higher costs of living and may trigger social unrest, the IMF is opting for insisting on eliminating the budget deficit which naturally means lifting these subsidies. So apart from this very special and odd case, what is really wrong with a budget deficit?

If the budget deficit is \$100 million, the closing of this deficit means abolishing \$100 million worth of spending all over the economy. This is virtuous only to the extent that this spending is made to buy foreign goods and services (i.e. to finance imports). But it will be counterproductive if it is used to shift resources away from buying domestically produced goods and services. In which case reducing the budget deficit becomes a means to cut national income.

Closing the budget deficit may be sometimes detrimental if it is financed from extra tax revenues. Normally, the marginal propensity to consume of the public sector (which receives the extra tax revenues) is higher than that of the private sector (which pays them), with the inevitable result that the transfer of funds from the pockets of the private sector to those of the treasury via taxes means boosting consumption expenditures at the expense of investment.

If the existence of a \$200 or \$300 million budget deficit really matters as much as we are asked to believe, and if the spending of such a deficit is very crucial, because public spending in Jordan is not rational enough or even dubious, there is a very safe way of redressing this problem. Instead of imposing more taxes on an already overtaxed economy or raising the prices of essential foodstuffs, the macro economic policy can work on boosting private savings. Increasing national savings by \$100 million means rationalising \$100 million worth of spending (as savings finance investment expenditures, by definition) which will offset the adverse effects on the economy of the vicious \$100 million budget deficit.

Our conclusions are (a) that the budget deficit is not virtuous by nature, (b) what matters is the content of the public spending financed from public borrowing and (c) there is an important difference between massive and small deficits. Most, if not all, of the countries of the world carry such deficits and for very long periods. A great many of them have chronic ones. A prudent government seems to be the best option that solves the problem of budget deficits in less developed countries. And in all cases, the question of the budget deficit in Jordan is a special case and is not therefore a good context in which to understand or appreciate the multidimensional of budget deficit policies: you may have a virtuous budget deficit in one country or at a given time or a vicious one at a different time or in another country. We do not, however, mean to defend budget deficits but to say that, in Jordan, this issue was overblown and abused.

# U.S. army legally responsible for Kuwaiti atrocities

The following is the text of a memorandum addressed to all United States military personnel in Kuwait by Professor Francis A. Boyle on their international legal responsibilities as belligerent occupants in Kuwait. Boyle is a professor of international law at University of Illinois.

IT HAS COME general public attention in the United States that authorities of the Kuwaiti government are routinely committing gross violations of international humanitarian law against civilians in Kuwait, whether currently being detained for trial or otherwise. The purpose of this memorandum is to briefly describe your legal responsibilities under international law as members of the United States Armed Forces that are currently occupying Kuwait. Under the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Department of the Army Field Manual FM27-10, The Law of Land Warfare (1956), the United States Army is clearly the "belligerent occupant" of Kuwait that is charged with maintaining law and order in Kuwait as well as ensuring scrupulous respect for international humanitarian law not only by United States military occupation forces but also by officials and agents of the government of Kuwait.

In this regard, both the United States and Kuwait are parties to the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949. Furthermore, Kuwait is a party to Additional Protocol One thereto of 1977. Although the United States government has signed but not ratified Geneva Protocol One, President Reagan stated that the United States government would consider itself to be bound by the humanitarian provisions of Geneva Protocol One as a matter of customary international law. These humanitarian provisions would clearly include the "Fundamental guarantees" found in Article 75 of Geneva Protocol One. Under common article 1 to the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949, both the United States and Kuwait are under an absolute obligation "to respect and to ensure respect" for these humanitarian provisions of Geneva Protocol One "in all circumstances."

Therefore, as a matter of both treaty law, international humanitarian law, and U.S. military law, all United States military personnel in Kuwait must act now to ensure that the government of Kuwait respects and observes all to these "Fundamental guarantees" found in Geneva Protocol One in its treatment of those individuals who are currently being detained pending prosecution by Kuwait, or for that mat-

ter, in its treatment of any civilians currently in Kuwait for any reason. In addition to the "Fundamental guarantees" of international humanitarian law found in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of Article 75 of the United States government and U.S. military occupation forces in Kuwait must insist that the government of Kuwait — at a minimum — afford all the protections of due process of law and a fair trial required by paragraphs 4, 5, 6, and 7 thereof. These are the basic minimum requirements of treaty law and international humanitarian law that apply to the Kuwaiti government in its conduct of any detentions or trials related to the Persian Gulf war.

Historically, the United States government has played the leading role in the negotiation, conclusion, ratification, implementation, and protection of the Geneva Conventions and Protocols, as well as of international humanitarian law in general. America must not now shirk its clearly established international legal duty "to ensure respect" for the Geneva Conventions and Protocol One by Kuwait. For United States military occupation forces to look the other way while Kuwait violates Geneva Protocol One would make a mockery of the many sacrifices made by U.S. soldiers who fought and died to liberate Kuwait from its illegal occupation by Iraq. Thus, while requiring Iraq to make reparations for its gross violations of international humanitarian law in Kuwait, the United States government and U.S. military occupation forces must make every effort to ensure that Kuwait respects international humanitarian law as well. There must be no double-standards when it comes to America's enforcement of international humanitarian law.

Consequently, in order to guarantee that there are no such double-standards in operation

here, this memorandum hereby informs all United States military personnel in Kuwait that you could be held personally responsible as a matter of criminal law for all violations of international humanitarian law that are being committed by the Kuwait government, its officials, or agents, against civilians in Kuwait. Your responsibility in this matter is made crystal clear by paragraph 501 of Department of the Army Field Manual FM27-10 (1956):

501. Responsibility for Acts of Subordinates in some cases, military commanders may be responsible for war crimes committed by subordinate members of the armed forces, or other persons subject to their control.... The commander is also responsible if he has actual knowledge, or should have knowledge, through reports received by him or through other means, that troops or other persons subject to his control are about to commit or have committed a war crime and he fails to take the necessary and reasonable steps to insure compliance with the law of war or to punish violators thereof. (Emphasis added).

Since the United States Army is obviously the belligerent occupant of Kuwait, the officials and agents of the Kuwaiti government are subject to the "control" of United States military occupation forces.

Hence, in the event that you fail or refuse to discharge your legal responsibilities to prevent violations of international humanitarian law by the Kuwaiti government, then you yourself can be prosecuted for a criminal violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 (the so-called Civilian Convention), or the customary international law of belligerent occupation. This means that you can be prosecuted in a United States military court-martial proceedings in a United States Federal District Court, or in the military or civilian courts of the 165 states that are parties to the Fourth Geneva Conventions of 1949. Moreover, I must also point out that it is a

basic principle of public international law that there is no such thing as a "statute of limitations" for the commission of war crimes. In other words, you could be subjected to criminal prosecution for your intransigence or inaction in Kuwait by any state that obtains control over you for the rest of your life.

Therefore, I hereby instruct all United States military personnel in Kuwait to act immediately and effectively in order to ensure that all agents and officials of the Kuwaiti government scrupulously adhere to the terms of the Geneva Protocol One, and in particular the "Fundamental guarantees" found in Article 75 thereof. This memorandum shall serve as formal legal notice to all U.S. military personnel in Kuwait of their legal responsibilities to secure Kuwait's strict adherence to international humanitarian law. This memorandum shall also inform all U.S. military personnel in Kuwait of the United States' monitoring all violations of international humanitarian law that might be committed or condoned by U.S. military personnel in Kuwait for the purpose of initiating war crimes prosecutions against them.

I certainly hope that it will not be necessary for us to prosecute any U.S. military personnel currently in Kuwait or elsewhere for complicity in violations of international humanitarian law by agents or officials of the Kuwaiti government. Indeed, it is the purpose of this memorandum (1) to inform all United States military personnel of their responsibilities under international law to prevent these violations from happening; (2) to terminate all violations of international humanitarian law by Kuwaiti government officials or agents immediately and therefore (3) to make it unnecessary for us to initiate war crimes prosecutions against any U.S. military personnel in Kuwait or elsewhere for such reasons. Notwithstanding this, please be advised that if United States military personnel in Kuwait do not put an immediate end to all violations of international humanitarian law by officials and agents of the Kuwaiti government, then the appropriate U.S. military personnel — especially officers with command authority — will run a serious risk of criminal prosecution and conviction when they return to the Continental United States. Once again, it is my sincere hope and expectation that such prosecutions of U.S. military personnel for mistreatment or nonfeasance in Kuwait will not be necessary.



# Press war erupts on east German streets

By Paul Taylor  
Reuter

BERLIN — The streets on which the cold war was fought are now the backdrop for a new conflict in which bare breasts and screaming headlines are the main weapons.

The western media industry's titans are locked in a vicious and costly battle for the readership of 16 million east Germans, raised on a stodgy diet of communist newspapers high on ideology but low on news and entertainment.

"How low can you go?" seems to be the challenge in the fight for down-market readership, pitting Germany's own Axel Springer empire against the barons of the Anglo-Saxon tabloid press — Robert Maxwell and Rupert Murdoch — and their German allies.

Each has invested tens of millions of marks (dollars) in what

the Germans call the "battle of the boulevard newspapers."

Springer's militantly anti-communist Bild, Europe's biggest selling newspaper with a circulation of nearly five million, was first to burst into east Germany in 1989 after the Berlin Wall opened.

Even before the wall fell, Bild scooped other papers by accurately forecasting the downfall of east German Communist Party leader Erich Honecker.

With nationalistic headlines like "Hurrah for Germany," the occasional political scoop and the usual mix of topless models and larger-than-life drama of the rich and famous, the Hamburg-based daily was soon selling one million copies in the east.

But that figure has fallen by half since German unification last year as cheaper and still brasher

rivals have entered the market, tailoring their product to the east German audience.

The latest and raunchiest challenger is the sex-and-scandal tabloid Super, owned jointly by Murdoch and German publisher Hubert Burda, which features a full-colour topless model on every front cover.

Cashing in on the resentment of Ossis (east Germans) who feel downtrodden by arrogant Weissis (west Germans), the paper says it has established a circulation of half a million within a month.

Rivals cast doubt on the figure. Super couples series on fallen communist rulers and on "secret places of lust" in east Germany with indignant stories about Ossis humiliated, cheated or fired by west Germans.

Its weather map did not even show west Germany for the first month of publication.

Critics say the paper has set new records in tastelessness. The intellectual weekly Die Zeit accused it of "boosting circulation with base emotions."

But far from being written by angry east Germans, Super is in fact produced by west Germans.

"Sixty western journalists disguised as Ossis articulate aggression against the west which they think their east German readers want to see articulated," said Sueddeutsche Zeitung. Bild reprinted the comment with glee.

With almost one in three east Germans unemployed or on state-funded short-time work schemes following the collapse of the communist economy, the press is one of the few growth industries in the blighted region.

Fifteen daily newspapers are now produced in Berlin alone. The new tabloids have un-

leashed a potentially suicidal price war. Super and the less sensationalist Berliner Kurier, launched by Maxwell and German publishers Gruner and Jahr with a circulation of 200,000, cost a mere 30 pfennigs (18 cents) — half the price of Bild.

Both feature "anger-phones" which readers can dial to let off steam at anything from the indignity of working for west Germans to the stale cheese on sale at the local supermarket.

A sample of reader outrage from Super: "I work in west Berlin. Because I come from the east, my colleague treats me like dirt. This isn't how I imagined German unity."

Most east Germans, perhaps clinging to what is left of their old identity, still read the same newspapers they read before the 1989 democratic revolution.

While the former Communist

Party daily Neues Deutschland has slumped from 1.2 million sales to a mere 140,000 today, the 15 regional party papers have maintained a large circulation.

All have gone into partnership with western publishing houses, which have invested heavily in new technology and provided management and editing expertise. But most still have the familiar old look.

Some western publishers already have the green light from the government's Treuhand privatisation agency to buy their eastern partners.

Least successful in the east have been west Germany's quality dailies and its established magazines. Few have managed to sell more than a handful of copies, apparently because they are too remote from east German concerns.

هكذا من الأصل

## Amnesty urges halt to trials

(Continued from page 1)

Ahmed Hamoud Al Jaber Al Sabah said in the June 3 edition of Sawt Al Kuwait that several senior police officers had offered to resign and their officers were being reviewed "case by case."

The crown prince, in what appeared to be a veiled reference to police brutality, told the newspaper: "I cannot say there is a defect in the security apparatus in Kuwait."

"What has happened is a new outlook and approach and a choice was offered to senior heads in the ministry of the interior to choose between staying on or retiring," he said.

Up to eight policemen are under investigation following allegations of torture, the acting prosecutor-general said at the weekend.

The White House has expressed concern about violence in post-war Kuwait and has told the government that its support depends on respect for human rights.

Human rights groups say the revenge killings that followed li-

beration have stopped but detention and torture continue at an alarming level. Many Palestinians have fled to Jordan.

The crown prince spoke bitterly about Kuwait's relations with Jordan.

"There is no contact between the officials in Kuwait and Jordan and it is difficult for any Kuwaiti citizen to forget what happened as a result of the Iraqi invasion. The wound is still bleeding and every citizen feels the pain."

### Kuwait resumes oil production

In another development, Kuwait has resumed oil production for the first time since its oilwells were set ablaze and its industry devastated by the Gulf war, a senior official said on Tuesday.

"We have begun pumping oil at a rate of 25,000 barrels per day (bpd) — the crude is being stored," said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) official contacted by telephone.

He did not say exactly when production had resumed or which oilfields were pumping crude.

## Israeli minister

(Continued from page 1)

The continued existence of Jewish settlements on the Golan, which now house about 12,000 Israelis, would not mean Israeli sovereignty, Deri said.

"What sovereignty this region will be under, who will control it and who won't rule over it, that is a subject for negotiations," Deri said.

His proposal contrasts with an announcement last month by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon that he intends to double the Jewish population of the Golan to make it more difficult to return to Syria.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has repeatedly assured Jewish residents that Israel will not exchange the sparsely-populated area for peace with its Arab neighbours.

Even in the opposition Labour Party, former defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin maintains Israel must hold the plateau for protection against Syria.

A withdrawal could be complicated by 1981 legislation introduced by a far-right party that extended Israeli law to the region.

The move, widely seen as annexation, was condemned by other countries, including the United States.

However, deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told army radio Israel's policy on the Golan heights was unchanged.

"The prime minister himself expressed pointedly our position on the Golan heights and it has not changed," he said.

He said it was important for Israel to retain control of the plateau to keep the Syrian army at a distance from Israel's population centres.

## Saudi women drove home a point

By Ellen Goodman

BOSTON — When 47 Saudi women staged a "drive-in" last fall, wheeling their luxury cars around Riyadh for half an hour before the police stopped them, I had the same mixed reaction as many other Americans.

On the one hand, I groaned at America's allegiance to a country that would not let women drive, let alone vote. On the other hand, I had a hard time joining a fight for the right of rich women to drive their own Mercedes.

As a second-generation American woman driver, I had not thought of driving as freedom since I was first licensed to take to the road. For most of my adulthood, the car has been a tool to get where I have to go with the people and things I have to take there.

American men, we are continually told, have a love affair with the automobile. But most American women are looking for a commitment. I just wanted a car that would be there the morning after to help take the kids to school.

Now, months later, reports filter back that these Saudi women are still being punished for their brief time behind the wheel. They and their movement have been "chauffeured" underground by the religious police.

Against this background comes Virginia Scharff's new book, "Taking the Wheel," as a lively reminder that even in America, automobility was once seen as a driving force for social change. And not everybody was keen on the idea.

Her book is one of those rare and delightful touring vehicles through history. It starts almost a century ago, when the automobile was built by and, most decidedly, for men. In America, too, the first woman who wanted to drive were the wealthy. In America, too, women started driving before they started voting.

In the early 1900s, when cars were still cranked up for action, there was a heated debate about whether women should or could drive. The argument reeked more than faintly of the odorous controversy raging then around women's rights.

Women as a whole, argued one traditional man, "are utterly un-

fitted to pilot ships, command armies or operate automobiles through no fault of their own. They were born that way."

Taking to the open road was, in turn, a strike for female independence, even rebellion. Ms. Scharff, a University of New Mexico historian, writes: "Climbing into an automobile, a woman rejected the cloister, certainly and potentially also the female sphere of hearth and home." Or purdah and veil.

During Teddy Roosevelt's years in the White House, his impetuous daughter Alice drove alone from Newport to Washington reaching speeds of 25 miles per hour. This created the sort of national uproar that led her father to admit that he could rule Alice or the country but not both.

Even Henry Ford, who put men squarely in charge of family life and family cars, inevitably contributed to this change. A sales brochure of World War I vintage, geared to Ford's female customers, laid it out succinctly: "No longer a shut-in, the woman reaches for an ever wider sphere of action... And in this happy change, the automobile is playing no small part... It is a real weapon in the changing order."

The prospect of unleashing women on the American landscape, Ms. Scharff concludes, "deeply disturbed many observers who worried that mobile women would be beyond control, socially, spatially, sexually." Decades later, half a world away, a Saudi teacher echoes the fear of sexual freedom when asked why driving so threatened the Muslim establishment. He answers obliquely that "driving could lead to temptations that would hurt the sanctity of women."

Americans, men and women, may feel more imprisoned in their cars than freed by them. We spend as much time commuting to work as our Russian counterparts spend lining up for food. A suburban mother does not regard her station wagon as a room of her own. It's the mobile office she takes on her rounds.

Americans are more conscious, too, of the damage the car has done. The car is to the environment what the cigarette is to the body. Gasoline-powered liberation sounds a bit like a Virginia Slims ad. You've come a long way, baby?



But the bulletins from the Mideast and the past are echoes of the real and symbolic role of the car. Women are still trying to take themselves where they want to go. In Saudi Arabia, when men are in the driver's seat it isn't just a figure of speech. — The Boston Globe.

## Israel settles immigrants in occupied lands

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli publishing house accused the government of a "massive take-over of Arab land" inside Israel intended to expand Jewish Israeli towns at the expense of Arab citizens of Israel.

The Hanitzor-Sharara Publishers told a news conference that the interior ministry confiscated 7,330 dunams from Arab town of Umm Al Fahm in February for construction and expansion of Jewish areas.

Roni Ben Efrat, an Israeli member of the firm which is publishing a new report on the issue, maintained that the land confiscations were specifically aimed at limiting growth of Arab towns.

"We're not talking about confiscation of land in order just to settle Jewish immigrants," she said. "We think the government is using Jewish immigration to specifically confiscate Arab land in order to strangle Arab existence."

Asaf Adiv, another official of the firm, said the main aim of the increased Jewish settlement is "to drive wedges between Arab villages... to prevent the formation of any Arab metropolitan area."

"Why is it necessary to build new Jewish towns precisely in the middle of areas which have been densely populated by Arabs for hundreds of years?" asked Adiv.

## No hostages, no aid

(Continued from page 1)

"There will not be the confidence in European people to come back, or the Americans, or even your own expatriates," Hogg said. "So it's very important for the interest of Lebanon and the people of Lebanon that this problem be solved."

Hogg said he and Haggi discussed the release of all the missing westerners, particularly the four Britons.

The Lebanese president "made it plain that, in his view, it was important for the wider interest of Lebanon... that there should be a solution to this problem," Hogg said.

Hogg was asked, following the meetings, whether there was any reason for optimism that the hostages might be released soon.

"I'm confident from what I've been told, and from what people have said to me, that there's a general and genuine recognition... that a line must be drawn under this matter and that all

hostages must be released with all possible speed," he said.

The 13 westerners missing in Lebanon and believed held by pro-Iranian extremists include six Americans, four Britons, two Germans and an Italian.

On Monday, Hogg met with Lebanon's highest-ranking Shiite cleric, Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine.

"We both found the discussions extremely useful," Hogg said without elaboration.

In London, Israel's ambassador to Britain said Tuesday his country is prepared to exchange its Arab prisoners for the western hostages and Israeli prisoners held in Lebanon.

Ambassador Yoav Biran told British Broadcasting Corp. television that Israel is ready to enter negotiations to make the swap.

"We are ready and willing. We have made clear in the past that there is no end to our determination and readiness to release our people," Biran said. "Some years ago we released more than 1,000 prisoners and terrorists for the

release of a few Israelis. So I believe in this respect you will find us very cooperative."

Biran told the BBC, Israel would be willing to exchange a number of Palestinian and Arab prisoners, including Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, for the seven Israelis missing in action in Lebanon and the 13 western hostages.

Obeid, a spiritual leader of Hizbollah, was kidnapped by Israeli paratroopers from his home village of Jibzelet in south Lebanon in July 1989.

"One would hope that the first measure, the first step, to provide a successful release of all concerned, the Iranians and the Hizbollah will allow the Red Cross to visit your hostages and our prisoners," Biran said.

Meanwhile dozens of acres of wheat and olive trees were set ablaze on Monday by phosphorus shells fired from an Israeli-controlled area of south Lebanon, security sources and witnesses said.

They said Israeli gunners and their Lebanese militia allies fired 15 rounds into the fields near the town of Rashaya, 12 kilometres north of Israel's border security zone.

Lebanese security sources said they knew of no reason for the attack.

Some shells also landed near the villages of Kfar and Mimess inside the buffer strip which Israel set up in 1985 along its border with Lebanon, they added.

## West opposes easing sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

Baghdad's troops were moving against civilians in the south who took refuge in marsh areas.

He said Britain hoped an expansion of U.N. activities in southern Iraq and particularly a humanitarian centre in Basra would throw more light on the situation there.

In addition he said that Iraq's list of weapons of mass destruction was "only partial" and not as complete as required by council Resolution 687 of April 3.

Consequently, he said, the British government felt there was no "justification for any reduction or lifting of the prohibitions which we are reviewing."

The review was conducted at informal consultations of the council with the views of each member to be relayed to Iraqi officials by this month's council president, Jean-Jacques Bechir, the Ivory Coast's ambassador.

In related action on Tuesday: — Iran asked the secretary general and the Security Council to take immediate action so Iraqi does not launch a general offensive against Shiites hiding in marshes in the south of the country.

In a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iranian Ambassador Kamal Kharrazi said there was "credible evidence" Iraq's army was preparing for "general mopping up" operation in the south of Iraq.

— Iraq rejected a proposed Security Council resolution calling on it to pay all the United Nations' costs of destroying its weapons of mass destruction and suggested Iraq itself should destroy them under U.N. supervision. No figure has yet been established for the cost of destroying Iraq's chemical, biological, nuclear and ballistic capability. But estimates have run into the hundreds of millions of dollars, particularly for chemical weapons.

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## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

## Lendl beats Cash at Beckenham

BECKENHAM, England (R) — Ivan Lendl overcame initial problems with his serve to defeat Pat Cash 3-6 7-6 7-6 and win the Beckenham grass court title Sunday. Lendl recovered from a set and a break down to take the match in two hours 27 minutes and exact some revenge for his defeat in the 1987 Wimbledon final, the last time the two met on grass. Lendl struggled with his serve from the outset in blustery conditions and looked headed for defeat when Cash led 3-2 in the second set. But the Czechoslovak broke back and took the tie-break 7-3. Lendl led 4-2 in the final set but Cash hit back to force another tie-break which Lendl won 7-4. "The conditions were very difficult. The wind made things awkward and you never knew how the ball was going to bounce," Lendl said after the match. He refused to be drawn on his chances at Wimbledon later this month, a tournament he has never won. "It's something I would like to win but my life does not depend on it," he said.

## Pole vault record broken

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet pole vaulter Sergie Bubka broke his own outdoor world record Sunday, clearing 6.08 metres at the International Amateur Athletic Federation Grand Prix competition. He broke the record of 6.07 metres, established last month in Sizuoka, Japan. It was the 26th time he has set a world record in his career. Bubka also holds the indoor record of 6.12 metres, which he established in March in Grenoble, France. Competing in Locomotiv stadium before about 7,000 people, Bubka earlier cleared heights of 5.70 metres and 5.85 metres, both on second attempts. After clearing 6.08 metres, Bubka decided not to continue the competition.

## Arthur Jorge joins Paris St. Germain

PARIS (R) — Portuguese trainer Arthur Jorge will join Paris St. Germain from Porto next season as part of a plan aimed at giving Paris the great soccer club it has been seeking for years. Jorge will replace Henri Michel, the club said in a statement Monday. They did not say how long his contract would run. The 45-year-old Portuguese, who led Porto to European Cup victory in 1987, trained another Paris club, Matra Racing, from 1987 to 1989 before returning to Porto.

## Tennis women's demand rejected

PARIS (AP) — French Open officials might grant equal prizes to both singles champions, but will not boost the overall women's purse to the level of the men's, the head of the French Tennis Federation said Monday. Monica Seles, who successfully defended her French Open title Saturday, has led a campaign by members of the Women's Tennis Association demanding parity in the prize money at the French Open and other major tournaments. Philippe Chatrier, president of both the French and International Tennis Federations, said the demand was unreasonable because the early rounds of the women's singles were dominated by lopsided victories of top seeds over outmatched lesser players. "With the women, the tournament only starts in the second week," Chatrier said at the annual post-tournament news conference. However, Chatrier said officials would consider raising the prize for the women's champion to equal the prize for the men's winner, without altering the ratio which sets the overall women's purse at 80 per cent of the men's purse. Seles' title earned her \$378,500 while Jim Courier received \$451,660 for defeating Andre Agassi in the men's finals Sunday.

## Reynolds says he'll be in Barcelona

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Sprinter Butch Reynolds says he's confident he will compete in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, now that his suspension over allegations of steroid use has been temporarily lifted. Reynolds and his attorney, Greg Lashutka, announced Monday the decision by arbitrator Richard E. Gombart. The association declared Reynolds eligible for the U.S. track and field championships in New York beginning Wednesday. The decision does not apply to other events that Reynolds wants to enter, including the 1992 Olympics. However, Lashutka said he was confident the ruling will hold up through further proceedings before the Athletics Congress of the USA Inc. (TAC) and the International Amateur Athletic Association (IAAF). "I will be in Barcelona in 1992 to represent the United States in the Olympics," Reynolds said. Reynolds, 26, was suspended from all international track and field competition for two years, from Aug. 12, 1990, by TAC. He had tested positive for steroids in an event in Monaco on that date, TAC said. Reynolds has denied using steroids and said the charges resulted from a mix-up in testing procedures.

## Computer wizard trying to save Tottenham

LONDON (R) — British computer millionaire Alan Sugar is engaged in talks to save debt-ridden F.A. Cup holders Tottenham. Sunday newspaper said the chairman of the Amstrad computer firm was expected to make a joint bid with team manager Terry Venables for a controlling interest in the North London club. "I can confirm that discussions are taking place," Sugar's spokesman, Nick Hewer, said. "But I cannot give you details at this stage." Dealing in Tottenham's shares on the London Stock Exchange has been suspended since last October with the club reportedly some £18 million (\$30 million) in debt. Tottenham had hoped to ease the debt burden by selling England midfielder Paul Gascoigne to Italian club Lazio for a world record £8.5 million (\$14 million). But Gascoigne badly damaged knee ligaments in last month's F.A. Cup final and Lazio are now trying to negotiate a lower price with a money-back guarantee should the player fail to recover full fitness.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH  
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## THE KING IS DEAD

Both vulnerable. South deals.  
NORTH  
♠ Q 8 7 6  
♥ Q 8 5  
♦ Q 7  
♣ 10

WEST EAST  
♠ K 4 ♠ J 5 3  
♥ J 9 4 ♥ 10 3  
♦ J 10 9 6 ♦ 8 5 4 3 2  
♣ K 9 6 2 ♣ 8 7 5

SOUTH  
♠ A 10 2  
♥ A K 7 2  
♦ A K  
♣ A Q J 3

The bidding:  
3 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass  
4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass  
6 ♠ Opening lead: Jack of

It is human nature to protect one's assets. But the nature of things change, and there comes a time when one must dump some holdings to protect others. This sage advice applies at the bridge table as well.

South's opening bid showed a balanced 25-26 points, and North used the Stayman convention to check on a major-suit fit. With only soft values, we would have been content with game. When North bid over game, South correctly thought partner was issuing a general invitation,

and the wealth of primes and excellent trumps convinced South to proceed to slam without further hesitation.

West led the jack of diamonds. Assuming spades could be brought in for the loss of only one trick, it looked as if the contract would hinge on the club finesse, but declarer tried for something else first. After drawing three rounds of trumps, ending in dummy, declarer came to hand with the ace of spades, cashed the remaining high diamond and then exited with a spade. In with the king and with nothing left but miking and with nothing left but miking, declarer had his 12th trick.

Inspired defense would have defeated the slam. West's king of spades had become a liability, and should have been jettisoned at the first opportunity—under declarer's ace of spades! Now East's jack will win the third round of spades, enabling that defender to lead a club with declarer's ace-queen. South will have to fall back on the club finesse, with gratifying results for the defense.

It is not easy to throw away a sure winner when you are defending against a slam. But it can be necessary!

## Brazil makes changes for S. America Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilian National Soccer coach Paulo Roberto Falcão Monday dropped almost all his country's World Cup players when he named his squad for the South American Championship, to be held in Chile in July.

Only six of those who played in last year's World Cup were included for Brazil's first official competition under Falcão. The absentees include Napoli forward Careca, PSV Eindhoven striker Romario, midfielders Silas, Alemão and Dunga and defenders Aldair, Mozer and World Cup captain Ricardo Gomes.

Falcão has left the same players out of recent friendlies because of problems getting them released by their European clubs.

Falcão said Romario had told him he was too tired to play. "He was honest to tell us. He must have felt he was unable to give everything we would expect of him," the coach said.

He added Careca had been left out because of recent injury troubles.

"Careca has had various injuries during the year. Because of the difficulties he has had, it could have been detrimental to his image in world soccer to call him up."

Falcão refused to comment on other individuals he left out. Bebeto, top scorer in last South American championship two years ago, was selected despite spending most of the last year sidelined through injury.

Seventeen of the 22 players picked play for Brazilian clubs.

## Injuries worsen Lakers' plight

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — Injuries to James Worthy and Byron Scott have turned the Los Angeles Lakers' bleak situation into a desperate one.

The Lakers, who trail the Chicago Bulls 3-1, a deficit no team has ever overcome in the finals, might have to play game 5 on Wednesday without Worthy or Scott, or both, because of injuries. Worthy aggravated the injury to the left ankle he sprained two weeks ago, and Scott has a bruised right shoulder.

"It looks very bad with James out and myself, I don't know," Scott said. "We'd like to go into each series completely healthy and we didn't. We're beat up and we're not playing well. The Bulls are taking advantage of it."

Worthy has to run on the bad ankle, an injury he said keeps him from being "mobile and spontaneous. Some of my moves bring back the pain."

Magic Johnson said the Lakers will play hard Wednesday night.

## Foreman offered \$15m to fight Tyson

NEW YORK (R) — George Foreman apparently is mulling over a \$15 million offer to fight Mike Tyson, which seems to hinge on whether Tyson can agree on a deal to take on heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield.

A spokesman for Tyson's promoter, Don King, said Monday Foreman would fight the winner of a June 28 rematch between Canadian Donovan "Razor" Ruddock and Tyson.

Spokesman Al Braverman confirmed the \$15 million offer and

said the "Tyson-Foreman fight would take place within three months of the Ruddock-Tyson fight in Las Vegas."

Tyson beat Ruddock last March when the referee stopped the fight in the seventh round, touching off a controversy over whether it had been stopped too soon.

Foreman, 42, received \$12.5 million for his unsuccessful challenge of Holyfield in April, when the champion won a unanimous 12-round decision.

King has been attempting to

reach agreement with Holyfield's camp on setting a Holyfield-Tyson fight.

The International Boxing Federation (IBF) has scheduled a purse bid Tuesday for the potential Tyson-Holyfield fight, but King has said he and Tyson no longer recognize the IBF.

The King move to withdraw recognition apparently was prompted by the IBF order that Holyfield receive the usual champion's 75 per cent of the purse and Tyson, the challenger, 25 per cent.

## IOC to discuss S. Africa, choose 1998 host

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — The process of South Africa's return to the Olympic movement was the focus of the first day of meetings of the IOC executive board. The full IOC session opens Wednesday.

With South Africa dismantling the last remaining pillars of apartheid, the IOC and other international sports federations have begun laying the groundwork for South Africa's reinstatement.

But the IOC has stressed that the ban forbidding athletes from South Africa to compete internationally should not be lifted until all apartheid laws have been repealed.

There has been worry in IOC circles that some federations, such as the International Amateur Athletic Federation, might be pushing too hard on South Africa.

"Our responsibility is to retain that leadership and provide guidance to the federations. So far they have followed," IOC Vice

President Kevan Gosper said. "We want the federations to stay behind us and not compromise this."

The IAAF, the world governing body for track and field, has already taken steps towards South Africa's rehabilitation.

Last month, it partially lifted its ban on South African athletes in international meets and said they could start competing again in Africa.

But IAAF President Primo Nebiolo of Italy indicated that, provided the country has scrapped its apartheid laws and set up a single national governing body for track and field, its athletes will be allowed to participate in Grand Prix meetings preceding the world championships.

South Africa was expelled from the IOC in 1970 for its policies of racial segregation. The IAAF followed suit in 1976.

The IOC has set two main conditions for South Africa's readmission: abolition of apartheid and unification of the country's sports federations into non-racial bodies.

The high point of the session will be Saturday's vote on the host city for the 1998 winter games. The candidates are Salt Lake City, Utah; Nagano, Japan; Osterund, Sweden; Aosta, Italy; and Jaca, Spain.

Last-minute campaigning was in full swing Monday, with Nagano producing 1989 World Figure Skating champion Midori Ito as a celebrity booster.

"To see the athletes from Japan competing in a Japan-held Olympics would be special for all Japanese," she said.

While Ito was speaking, six Japanese environmentalists staged an anti-Olympics demonstration in the square outside the International Convention Centre.

The group held up handwritten signs saying, "save nature" and "stop the Olympics in Nagano."



Nasser Khalifa, standing with medal, is fourth from left.

## Nasser Khalifa wins two squash events

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian born athlete, Nasser Khalifa, won two squash events in a row held in West Lancashire, England. In the Dunlop Closed tournament, held last April, Mr. Khalifa played at

West Lancashire Squash Club where he beat the men's team captain Andy Boyer 3-1 in the finals. Mr. Khalifa also won the two squash tournaments this year and he won them both.

Handicap tournament where Mr. Khalifa beat Dave Taylor. Mr. Khalifa had only participated in two squash tournaments this year and he won them both.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 12, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The New Moon in Gemini offers you a fair opportunity to wind up whatever projects have already been placed in motion so think through how you can get them behind you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your attention should now be riveted upon money, property, and possessions and the best means by which you can have more of this world's goods.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can be just as personal as you like now for you have an unusual amount of charm and are on the beam in showing others your best abilities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Many separate items acquired in order to prepare for you, for some highly interesting new projects can be solved by you by strict attention.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Some very determined friends have the answers for which you have been searching so don't hesitate but get in touch with them and get views.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have many things to do in order to impress one in power who has considerable power in your life so get out it the world and do so now.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have the chance now to come to a whole new and better understanding with your associates but it is essential you do listen to their comments.

for some fresh new inspirations by which you can gain the good will of newcomers.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the moment to get those obligations of a government or business nature settled by a very conscientious application to them without reserve.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have the chance now to come to a whole new and better understanding with your associates but it is essential you do listen to their comments.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A new attitude towards your work and your life is excellent for you now so low-cost a moment but plunge into this new way of thinking.

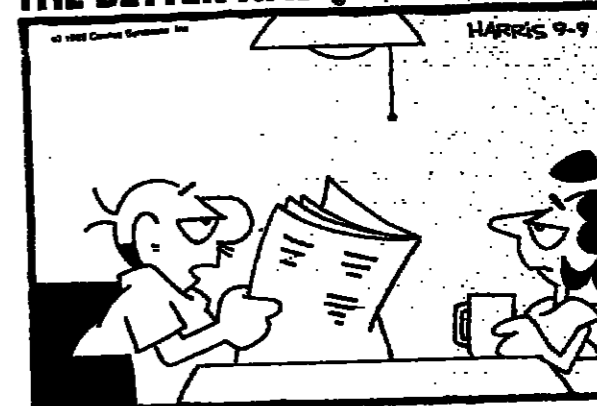
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There are 46 many pleasant things that can unfold in your life today that you can wisely extend your interest to all forms of pleasures.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You would certainly be wise to consciously be yourself down to a plan of action that is just what your family desires and you find much more harmony exists.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Making calls and visits to those you like or who can release some information you want is excellent for you now so show special interest.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



## Financial Markets

**U.S. Dollar in International Markets**

Currency	New York Close June 11, 1991	Tokyo Close June 11, 1991
Sterling Pound	1.6710	1.6720
Deutsche Mark	1.7660	1.7660
Swiss Franc	1.5110	1.5090
French Franc	5.9920	5.9950
Japanese Yen	141.35	141.35
European Currency Unit	1.1645	1.1644

USD Per STD  
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

**Interbank Interest Rates** Date: 11/6/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75
Sterling Pound	11.25	10.87	10.48	10.62
Deutsche Mark	8.75	8.87	8.87	9.00
Swiss Franc	7.93	7.93	7.87	7.68
French Franc	9.58	9.58	9.43	9.31
Japanese Yen	7.81	7.71	7.62	7.50
European Currency Unit	10.09	9.57	9.51	9.81

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Currency	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Currency	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	372	7.02	Silver	4.54	.10

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 11/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.684	.686
Sterling Pound	1.1418	1.1475
Deutsche Mark	.3666	.3685
Swiss Franc	.4527	.4550
French Franc	.1142	.1146
Japanese Yen	.4835	.4859
Dutch Guilder	.3433	.3450
Swedish Krona	.1077	.1082
Italian Lira	.0521	.0524
Belgian Franc	.01581	.01590

Other Currencies Date: 11/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7860	1.8200
Lebanese Lira	.074	.076
Saudi Riyal	.1820	.1830
Kuwaiti Dinar	.1846	.1855
Qatari Riyal	.1900	.2100
Egyptian Pound	1.7860	1.8200
Omani Riyal	.1846	.1855
Greek Drachma	.3450	.3650
Cypriot Pound	1.4000	1.4200

Per 100

**CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market**

Index	8/6/1991	Close	9/6/1991	Close
All-Share	112.01		111.66	
Banking Sector	108.72		107.71	
Insurance Sector	113.20		113.31	
Industry Sector	114.79		115.16	
Services Sector	128.45		130.18	

December 31, 1990 = 100

## Baxter gives up on Syrian plant

DEERFIELD, Illinois (R) — Baxter International Inc. one of the world's largest manufacturers of health-care products, said Monday it is abandoning plans to build a facility in Syria that has drawn criticism from pro-Israel groups.

Acknowledging that its plans to build the plant have been controversial, Baxter blamed the volatile situation in the Middle East and "controversy surrounding Syria in particular" for its decision.

The plant, which was to have manufactured intravenous solutions, triggered accusations that Baxter planned to sell its businesses in Israel in order to deal with Syria.

The Arab League, of which Syria is a member, blacklists companies that do business with Israel. Complying with the League's requirements is illegal under U.S. law.

Federal authorities are investigating the allegations against Baxter.

In its statement, Baxter noted that it has denied any wrongdoing and had appointed an independent counsel to look into the matter. The counsel found "nothing illegal or improper," the company said.

"We are eager to have this matter resolved," said Mr. Vernon Loucks, Baxter's chairman and chief executive officer. "The best legal advice available to us says the company has done nothing wrong. Baxter will cooperate, as it has all along, with the government's study."

The company said Israel remains its largest trading partner in the Middle East and noted that its products are available throughout the region via distributors.

Mr. Loucks gave one of the company's critics, the American Jewish Committee (AJC) advanced notice of its decision to drop the project in a letter Friday.

The AJC, a major supporter of Israel, said in a statement Monday that it welcomed Baxter's "responsiveness" to its appeals.

## BIS urges world central banks to be cautious in tackling cyclical downswings

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Central banks should give priority to fighting inflation and be wary of cutting interest rates to try to pull economies out of a cyclical downswing, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said Monday.

In its annual report, the BIS, which acts as a central bank for national central banks, said economies took a long time to respond to changes in monetary policy, so attempts to use it to eliminate swings in the economic cycle were hazardous.

"Few now believe that monetary policy is in fact capable of imparting a lasting stimulus to economic activity," it said.

"These considerations suggest monetary policy should have a medium-term orientation, con-

centrating on containing inflation and avoiding stop-go policies."

The BIS said policy-makers faced problems, including the debt crisis, the reform of eastern Europe and exchange rate strategy.

But policy issues connected with the business cycle currently caused the most concern to central banks, it added.

The BIS did not mention the United States by name but made clear it did not support appeals by the administration of President George Bush to other countries to give priority to boosting economic growth by cutting interest rates.

It said those urging cheaper money believed real interest rates were too high and recession

should be tackled by bringing down nominal long-term rates.

But the problem was central banks only had close control over short-term rates, it added. A reduction in these would not necessarily lead to long-term rates falling too.

"It is therefore hard to see how international policy coordination could ever successfully use nominal long-term interest rates as its focal point."

The BIS warned policy-makers against switching their attention to whatever aspect of the economy they considered most at risk, whether inflation when it was going out of control or growth when there was slack in the economy.

"A policy that frequently changes direction according to changing perceptions of what is the most endangered goal cannot be relied upon to achieve any of its 'objectives,'" it said.

It said central bankers were often suspected of having a professional bias in favour of price stability and not caring enough about growth and unemployment.

"On the other hand they are also often reproached for not delivering the one thing for which they should be held responsible, namely price stability," it added.

On the international debt crisis, the BIS said this still cast a shadow over large parts of the developing world though no longer over the international banking system.

"There is no lack of almost daily reminders of just how wretched living conditions in many developing countries are," it said.

It said imperative for developing countries that the current Uruguay Round of talks to liberalise world trade was brought to a successful conclusion, it added.

Turning to eastern Europe, the BIS said problems in the region had been considerably more difficult than anticipated and elected governments had to find their own way in the crucial area of structural reform since no precedent existed.

The best help the industrial world could offer would be to allow eastern European countries much greater and permanent access to its markets, it added.

## U.N. envoy says Lebanon needs urgent aid for rebuilding

BEIRUT (R) — U.N. envoy Bettino Craxi said Monday Lebanon needed urgent international aid to rebuild its basic services after 16 years of civil war.

Mr. Craxi, a former Italian prime minister sent to Lebanon on a brief visit by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said he would coordinate plans to help reconstruction.

"There are many plans because there are many problems and the list of these problems is long," Mr. Craxi told reporters after talks with Foreign Minister Faris Bouez.

"I'm determined to coordinate all these initiatives on the international level to put them into effect," he said.

"The list of aid which is needed urgently is for the infrastructure such as communication systems, transportation, water and electricity installations," Mr. Craxi said.

The Lebanese government estimates war damage at between \$15 and \$23 billion. It wants up to \$2 billion in long-term loans as a start towards financing reconstruction.



Bettino Craxi

British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg toured the ruined heart of Beirut Monday, but said he brought no offers of aid from London because he needed first to determine whether peace would last.

Mr. Bouez visited Saudi Arabia Saturday and Sunday to discuss reconstruction and said the Saudis pledged to continue their efforts to set up the initial \$2 billion fund.

Rebuilding in Kuwait after the Gulf war has lowered Beirut's chances of attracting aid.

## Strikes spread in Romania over pay, mismanagement and reform

BUCHAREST (R) — Bucharest's biggest industrial complex was paralysed Monday when 90 per cent of its workers went on strike.

Thousands of workers stopped work in other cities across Romania, demanding better pay, sacking of managers, and faster economic reform. More strikes are planned later in the week.

The strike at Bucharest's Four Engineering Enterprise began with 1,000 staff Friday and grew Monday when almost 14,000 employees stopped work.

More than 40,000 members of the Democratic Alliance trade union, grouping staff from 10 other engineering plants, will join the Four strike Wednesday.

Doctors demonstrated in several towns Monday against inadequate health service funding. Teachers, doctors and nurses plan national strikes later in the week.

The disputes highlight the growing alienation of workers who overwhelmingly backed the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) when it was elected a year ago, but are angry over its failure to restructure industry and revive the economy.

Four workers rejected talks with Prime Minister Petre Roman at government headquarters. "We've been there before... he must come to us," said union leader Alexandru Vladescu.

In Deva, 50 workers in the hard-hit non-ferrous metal mining industry began a hunger strike over management failure to solve the industry's problems. Rompres news agency said.

In Iasi, northeast Romania, 3,000 striking engineers marched to government offices to demand a commission to investigate grievances over pay, bad management and slow economic reform.

Anti-government demonstrations are scheduled in the capital Thursday, first anniversary of a crackdown on an anti-NSF protest in Bucharest which resulted in at least six deaths.

A former NSF vice-president attacked the party Monday for

letting down voters, especially the workers, and left the party to become an independent politician.

Mr. Claudiu Iordache, 48, a centre-left liberal, said in a speech to parliament he was leaving the party because it cared too little for the suffering of ordinary Romanians.

Industry Minister Victor Stanculescu said last week that the decline of Romania's industrial production can be stopped before the end of 1991 but recovery would depend on the efficiency of longer-term reform strategies.

"The immediate target for industry is to make serious progress towards a market economy and privatisation," Mr. Stanculescu told a news conference.

According to official statistics, Romania's industrial output last year was 22.3 per cent down from 1989.

## El Al reports \$14m profit for 1990

TEL AVIV (R) — El Al Israel Airlines Ltd. has said its 1990 net profit was \$14.1 million, down from \$24.2 million the previous year.

El Al said it was one of only a few airlines to report profits in 1990, a difficult year for the industry and especially for Israel where tourist traffic was halved and fuel and insurance costs doubled during the Gulf crisis.

"We have built a flexible and efficient airline capable of adapting itself to changing conditions that could adversely affect its

operations," said El Al President Rafi Hariv.

El Al, a debt-ridden airline operating under receivership for the last seven years, said its revenues totalled \$785 million, a 10.4 per cent increase over 1989.

The number of passengers it carried in 1990 rose slightly, to 1.7 million, while its overall cargo tonnage was 169,000, a 2.5 per cent rise.

The state-owned airline has been scheduled for privatisation since 1988. Two U.S.-based consulting firms last year recom-

mended the Israeli government sell 51 per cent of El Al's shares through an international stock offering.

According to the proposal, 41 per cent of El Al's shares would be sold on Israeli, U.S. and Euro-

pean stock markets, while an additional 10 per cent would be sold to El Al employees.

The consultants said the government should keep a "golden share" that would insure Israeli control of the carrier.

## Emirates airlines gets \$64m loan for Airbus

DUBAI (R) — Dubai-based Emirates airlines has signed an agreement for a \$64.5 million loan syndicated by a number of United Arab Emirates (UAE) banks to finance the purchase of an Airbus A-300-600R jetliner.

A statement from the airline said the Dubai-based Emirates Bank International had led the syndication, which included the Commercial Bank of Dubai, the Middle East Bank Limited and the Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank.

Terms of the loan, said to be the airline's first financed solely by UAE banks, were not available. The aircraft is expected in Dubai Wednesday, the statement said.

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### INTENSIVE COURSE IN MODERN STANDARD ARABIC

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the intensive course in Modern Standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on June 29, and will last for 8 weeks.

The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday.

Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration.

## China to 'muddle through' problems

WASHINGTON (R) — China faces major economic problems over the next decade but is likely to "muddle through" somehow, according to a U.S. study of the Chinese economy.

Prepared by the U.S. Congress's Joint Economic Committee, the study includes nearly 60 papers and other reports by U.S. government and private experts. "The consensus of the experts is that China has become politically stagnant and economically indecisive," committee chairman Sena-

tor Paul Sarbanes, a Maryland Democrat, said in a statement. Mr. John Hart of the Library of Congress and Mr. Richard Kaufman, the committee's lawyer, concurred.

"It is impossible to summarise the views of almost 60 scholars who have contributed to these volumes, and yet it is safe to say that they all would agree that despite China's innumerable problems, she may continue to 'muddle through'," they said in a joint introduction.

"In fact, the great majority of the contributors would be more optimistic than that," Messrs. Hart and Kaufman said.

The study said fundamental changes to the present socialist system were unlikely as long as Mr. Deng Xiaoping and his colleagues remained in power.

But before the decade is over, China's leadership was likely to change and competition, pressures from the Chinese people and the desire for modernisation would force China to find a more

efficient economic system.

"What precisely the new model will be no one can predict, but it is more than likely that the trend toward a market economy will continue, albeit with Chinese characteristics."

The study said the Chinese economy grew during the last decade but began experiencing serious problems — including serious shortages of energy and raw materials, inflation and unemployment — that are continuing.

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As historic election nears

## Kremlin-backed media targets Yeltsin

MOSCOW (AP) — Kremlin-backed media Tuesday targeted Boris Yeltsin, the front-runner in the race to become the Russian Federation's first popularly elected president.

Yeltsin, 46, is the Soviet Union's youngest and most popularly elected leader. He must be elected by July 12 to take office. A runoff must be held within two weeks if no candidate gets more than 50 per cent of the vote.

Many reformers believe the communists have flooded the field to elect Yeltsin a first-round major.

Six candidates are running for the new office, and Yeltsin's chief rivals are former Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda Tuesday charged Yeltsin, who is chairman of the Russian legislature, was responsible for the giant republic's economic woes.

The newspaper published a scathing portrait of Ryzhkov, saying he was the best candidate to "put our ship called Russia" on the path to reform.

Pravda Monday had slammed Yeltsin as disloyal to his allies, narrow-minded and authoritarian.

Yeltsin ended the campaign confidently Monday evening with a rally in Manezh Square next to the Kremlin, seat of the Communist leadership that he has battled in his quest for political and economic decentralisation.

About 20,000 people rallied for candidates backed by the Democratic Russia Movement, including Yeltsin and Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov.

Popov, who is seeking reelection in Wednesday's balloting, beamed as he was praised by poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko, a popular actress and a pro-reform general.

Campaigning was not officially permitted Tuesday, but leaflets and posters circulated around the republic. On Monday, campaigners handed out leaflets at stop lights, and Yeltsin placards festooned the rear windows of a trolley bus at rush hour.

Opinion polls cited by the official TASS news agency put Yeltsin ahead in the race with the support of between 39 per cent and 52 per cent of voters.

Ryzhkov, the Communist Party candidate, was running second with 14 per cent to 25 per cent. TASS said Monday. Bakatin appeared to be running third in

the six-candidate field.

Other polls have given Yeltsin more than 60 per cent support.

Tuesday's Nezavisimaya Gazeta (independent newspaper), quoting the information agency Data, predicted that Yeltsin would take 57 per cent of the vote.

Rabochaya Tribuna (workers newspaper) reported that most voters surveyed by telephone supported Yeltsin, saying he represented "a dream of a new Russia."

Yeltsin, an outspoken critic of President Mikhail Gorbachev, has become immensely popular among Soviets demoralised by decades of broken promises and worsening shortages of consumer goods.

In February, he demanded that Gorbachev step down, accusing the Soviet president of retreating from reforms that would create a market economy. Yeltsin and Gorbachev have since reached a truce, and Russia is among the republics which has agreed to sign a new union treaty and cooperate with the Kremlin on economic reform.

Russians voted in a March 17 referendum to create the presidential post in their republic.

which covers two-thirds of the Soviet Union from Europe to the Pacific and includes the country's most valuable natural resources and roughly half the Soviet Union's 285 million people.

Secessionist-minded Georgia last month became the first Soviet republic to directly elect a president.

Some of the 105 million eligible voters started voting Monday on remote Arctic islands and drilling rigs to allow time for the ballots to be shipped to counting stations, TASS said.

Yeltsin has campaigned across the republic, but his Communist-supported opponents have limited their appearances to smaller groups at factories or auditoriums.

Most of the campaigning has been conducted in the media.

At a presidential debate held Monday night on central television, all six candidates were invited, but Yeltsin declined to attend, choosing instead to campaign in the Volga River city of Samara.

Four of the five candidates criticised Yeltsin repeatedly — to the point where the host interrupted to read letters from listeners complaining about candidates constantly attacking Yeltsin.

## In Russian election, issues and sharp words

By Brian Friedman  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Amid the ideological ferment of Russia's first popular presidential election, Boris Yeltsin spoke about fermenting a different sort.

Yeltsin, who is one of six candidates in Wednesday's election, is pledging to cut the price of vodka nearly in half.

Yeltsin, of the Communist-supported Liberal Democratic Party, has made the vodka price pledge a major plank of his platform in the first popular presidential election in Russian history.

Vodka, which is rationed in Moscow and other Russian cities, sells for about 11 to 12 rubles a bottle, roughly a day's wages. Shortages are limited to one bottle per month, but can get as high as five if they pay a middleman or a marketeer about five times the price.

Yeltsin has promised to reduce the price to 7 rubles per bottle, and make it available for sale from morning until night.

The main candidates — Boris Yeltsin, former Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and former Interior Minister Bakatin — have spent much of the last three weeks on the campaign trail in the central part of the vast republic.

But only the populist maverick Yeltsin is drawing crowds to outdoor rallies. Ryzhkov and Bakatin, the top Communist Party candidates, have appeared mostly before small groups at factories and auditoriums.

Many reformers believe the Communists have flooded the field to deny Yeltsin the simple majority he needs to win on the first round. Polls show him heading the pack with between 49 and 63 per cent.

A second round of voting will be held two weeks after the first if no one wins a majority.

Television has played a major role in the campaign, but not in



Boris Yeltsin

the same way familiar to countries where political ads clog the airwaves toward the end of a campaign.

Yeltsin, as chairman of the Russian Federation's parliament, enjoys favourable — or at least balanced — reporting on the television channel owned by the republic's parliament.

But on central television, which is very much under Kremlin control, he's had a rougher ride.

On central television's "Who Is Who" programme, an hour-long question-and-answer session with each candidate, Yeltsin was relentlessly attacked throughout the programme by interviewer Igor Fyusenko last week.

By contrast, the same commentator lavished praise on other candidates supported by the Communist Party.

In an apparent attempt to show that Yeltsin's wife was not of pure Russian blood, Fyusenko asked what her patronymic — her father's given name — was. It is Josef, which for Russians indicates Jewish ancestry. Yeltsin quickly pointed out that his wife is of Cossack extraction, an indication of true Russian-ness.

Fyusenko later asked Yeltsin about his "many fresh trips" recently.

"Many trips, I got

Sergeyevich?" Yeltsin shot back archly, explaining that he took one official trip to Czechoslovakia and one private trip to France last month.

Fyusenko continued the attack, asking why Yeltsin put flowers on the grave of Czechoslovak dissident Jan Palach in Prague and not on the graves of Soviet troops buried in Czechoslovakia.

"I did put flowers on their graves," Yeltsin replied, his tone growing increasingly more bitter, "but your dear central television did not show it."

Toward the end of the hour, an increasingly testy Yeltsin removed his jacket. His face was flushed.

"It's a little hot in here, and since you decided to devote the entire programme to negative Yeltsin material, I don't feel comfortable," the Russian leader said.

"I hope you are going to limit yourself to taking off your jacket," sneered Fyusenko.

"Oh, definitely," Yeltsin replied.

A survey campaign literature indicates that the Russians haven't mastered the snappy political slogan.

The poster for Ryzhkov and his running mate, Deputy Interior Minister Boris Gromov, shows the two standing together in a black and white photo.

"All to the election vote for Ryzhkov and Gromov," it says in red and white lettering.

Yeltsin's poster is slightly more catchy: "From people's deputy to people's president."

But it also features a relatively small photo of him, with about a dozen paragraphs of heavy-handed text below it.

"Russia surely will rise again, for it has a multinational and talented people, enormous natural resources, a rich history, spiritual potential and a decisive leader who enjoys the support of most of its citizens, Boris N. Yeltsin," reads the main paragraph.

## Army reservists called up in Fiji

SUVA (R) — Fiji's military Tuesday ordered 3,000 reservists to report to their bases, raising fears of a third military coup.

The order, broadcast on state-owned Radio Fiji, followed a call Saturday by Fiji Military Forces Commander Major General Sitiveni Rabuka for the interim government to resign.

Fiji has been ruled by an interim government since 1987 when Rabuka led two military coups, the first toppling the late Dr. Timoci Bavadra's democratically-elected government.

It was not immediately clear whether the call-up was routine, but it follows the pattern used by the Fiji army just before and immediately after the previous coups.

Radio Fiji said reservists were required to report to their bases Thursday and Friday for their "annual medical board (check-ups) and up-dating of their personal records."

Neither Rabuka nor army Chief of Staff Brigadier Ratu Epeli Ganilau could be contacted to comment on the call-up.

The army called up not only active reservists but also former reservists under the age of 45 and those required by law to become reservists in 1992.

Political analysts in Suva, the capital of the south Pacific island nation, said the extent of the call-up raised concern.

## Philippine volcano builds up pressure for major eruption

MANILA (R) — Pressure was building inside a Philippine volcano under a growing dome of red hot magma Tuesday for an anticipated second, more powerful eruption that could shower a major U.S. air base in a hail of rock and ash.

"A major eruption could occur at any time," said Raymundo Punongbayan, head of the Philippine Volcanology Institute.

"The magma is on the surface already and is about ready for an eruption," he said in a radio interview. "It's just collecting the force for a major eruption."

Mount Pinatubo volcano, near Clark Air Base, headquarters of the U.S. 13th Air Force in the Philippines, was building up a dome of magma — molten rock — more than 30 metres high, he said.

"The magma is very sticky, very viscous. So instead of moving out, it is building a dome, and this dome is being enlarged," Punongbayan said.

Villages of Aeta tribesmen around the volcano have been evacuated.

Local photographers seeking a clear view of the smoke-shrouded mountain drove through deserted villages, where chickens, dogs and cats roamed the streets.

Some tribesmen returned to their homes to feed their water buffaloes.

"We got all our animals and put them inside our house," said local farmer Mang Berto, who lives close to the volcano that has carpeted crops and fruit trees with a layer of grey ash.

"The grass on the mountain is all dead because of the lava from the volcano and so our animals have nothing to eat," he said in an interview with a radio reporter.

Thousands of Americans in a huge convoy of cars and buses evacuated Clark, 80 kilometres north of Manila, Monday.

Hundreds more Filipinos were evacuated as Pinatubo spewed ash, steam and red hot lava in a series of small explosions that continued to rock the volcano after an initial eruption Sunday.

Pinatubo was the second volcano along the Pacific "Ring of Fire" area of volcanic activity to explode in a week. Japan's Mount Unzen erupted a week ago, killing 37 people on Kyushu island, 1,000 kilometres southwest of Tokyo.

U.S. and Philippine volcanologists have decided to pull out from their listening post at Clark because of the risk involved in staying "in a danger zone," Punongbayan said.

Stronger eruptions by the volcano were "imminent" and the next blast would be the "explosive type, characterised by pyroclastic flows which could be very destructive," he said.

U.S. officials are concerned a heavy ash flow could damage sensitive equipment on the base. However, there was no danger the ash and lava would damage weapons, a U.S. spokesman said.

The spokesman declined to say whether nuclear weapons were stationed at the air base, saying only: "No weapons systems are threatened at Clark."

## South Korean premier: Government mobilising 12,000 election watchdogs

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik said Tuesday the government was mobilising nearly 12,000 people as watchdogs for a crackdown on illegal campaigning for June local elections.

The independent central election management committee charged Tuesday that the political parties demanding fair elections are the ones most responsible for breaking the election laws.

This includes the governing Democratic Liberal Party and the main opposition New Democratic Party, it said.

"Although all the parties say they want fair elections, they are actually engaged in excessive and corrupt campaigning," said an official, declining to be identified.

The June 20 elections are to choose 15 local councils for big cities and large provincial areas. The elections are a preliminary to

parliamentary and presidential elections to be held next year. Home Minister Lee Sang-Yeon said Tuesday 383 people suspected of illegal electioneering had been investigated since the campaign began last Saturday and 17 of them had been arrested for various election law violations.

Among the most prevalent violations are buying food and drink for voters, giving voters cash payments, trying to pressure opponents to drop out of a race and misquoting or name-calling, officials said.

Many of these practices, though now against the law, have been common in past Korean elections.

### Student protests

Meanwhile, hundreds of students wearing black headbands

and shouting "oust the murderous regime" escorted the body of a student killed at anti-government protests from a morgue to a university Tuesday for funeral rites.

Students and dissidents said a mass funeral march would be staged Wednesday for Kim Kwi-Jung, who was trampled to death at a demonstration May 25 while fleeing police firing tear gas.

Police banned the Wednesday march and warned it would be blocked by force.

Her funeral comes seven weeks after police fatally beat another student, triggering nationwide protests and leading to the most serious crisis for the government since President Roh Tae-Woo took office in 1988.

"Down with Roh Tae-Woo," yelled students, shooting their fists in the air.

## Tamil rebels initiate peace moves

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Tamil rebels Tuesday said they were ready for peace talks to end the eight-year civil war with the government and suggested negotiations in Europe.

The offer came one year after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the rebel militia, broke a cease-fire and resumed their civil war against the army.

"The LTTE is showing a willingness to take part in direct, unconditional talks with the Sri Lankan government to be held in a European country," said Lawrence Thilaker, a spokesman for the group. He spoke to the Associated Press by telephone from Germany.

Government officials refused to comment on the offer.

Last week, a top adviser to President Ranasinghe Premadasa said early peace talks were difficult because the Tigers were prime suspects in last month's assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in southern India.

Bradman Weerakoon, foreign affairs adviser to the president, said although Tamil guerrillas could not be blamed without proof for the May 21 assassination, the government "would not want to get involved in any negotiations with a group which is alleged to have been involved in such atrocity."

Thilaker denied the Tigers were involved in the killing, and accused the government of using the charge as "a ploy not to restart negotiations with us."

"They are also trying to get Indian military assistance by accusing the LTTE of the Gandhi killing," he said.

He said neighbouring India and some European nations should mediate any talks. The United Nations could monitor a ceasefire while talks proceed, he said.

"This is our response to moves being made by a number of European countries, collectively and individually, to get the Sri Lanka government to end the fighting," Thilaker said.

The war resumed June 11 last year, when the Tigers attacked police and army camps after a 13-month ceasefire. The attacks followed the abrupt breakdown of peace talks.

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## India's wild west — where bullets count as much as ballots

By Dilip Ganguly  
The Associated Press

NALANDA, India — In the Indian badlands of Bihar, where a person is murdered every two hours and another is kidnapped every four hours, police are bracing for Wednesday's parliamentary elections.

Officials in Patna, Bihar's state capital, say privately that candidates of major and minor parties alike hire their own thugs, who are called "goondas."

"I have told my men to shoot troublemakers on sight. Let the goondas die," said Rajiv Gauba, the chief administrator of Nalanda, once a famed seat of Buddhist teaching and now known for its gunrunning trade and mayhem.

India's firm but sometimes bizarre demonstrated commitment to democracy has produced, among other phenomena, the practice of "booth-capturing" whereby partisans of one party or another stuff the ballot boxes. And nobody stuffs the ballot boxes like the Bihar goondas.

"In the best of times Nalanda is a pretty bad place to live. Now with the elections approaching, it has degenerated into a virtual hell," said Kedar Nath Singh, a local journalist.

The front-runner in Bihar, which holds 54 of parliament's 543 elected seats, is the Janata Dal Party of former Prime Minister V.P. Singh, whose coalition government collapsed last November after 11 months in power and was succeeded by

another short-lived minority government.

The Janata Dal, a centrist party, is expected to win about one-half of Bihar's seats.

The Congress Party, whose leader Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated three weeks ago, is expected to finish second in Bihar, followed by the Hindu right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party.

Nationally, the Congress Party is expected to come out on top — but not necessarily with enough votes to form the government unless it enlists the support of smaller parties, such as the Communists.

About two-thirds of Bihar voted May 20, one day before Gandhi was killed by a bomb-bearing suicide assassin in south India. About two-fifths of India had voted May 20, but elections in the rest of the country were postponed until this week because of the former prime minister's assassination. The election concludes Saturday, with the first results expected Sunday.

Security is stepped up during elections throughout India. But in Bihar, 700 kilometres east of New Delhi, it's an uphill struggle.

The state has 85,000 policemen. The number of goondas is estimated at more than 200,000 by state officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. At least 24 people have been killed in the campaign and the earlier voting.

Nalanda, 100 kilometres south of the state capital, has a reputation of being one of the most violent regions in the country's most lawless state.

In the last few weeks, police said they have discovered scores of illegal arms factories, seizing crude rifles, revolvers, pistols and even bows and arrows.

Entire families have been arrested, including a father and his four sons who were nabbed in the act of making bombs for politicians, officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Gauba, whose job as district magistrate makes him 1,108 "hard core" criminals have been taken into custody in an effort to ensure fair balloting. Another 2,600 people have been ordered to report to their local police stations daily or face arrest.

But that hasn't stopped the threat of violence, Gauba said. "Leave this place before dark. There are murderers on the prowl," he advised a reporter and photographer who had travelled to Nalanda from Patna by taxi.

Across Bihar, where 60 per cent of the 86.3 million residents are eligible to vote, at least 13,000 people have been taken into custody. Most were listed as "goondas" and were held under preventive detention laws that permit arrest without charge.

More than 1,000 years ago Nalanda was a great Buddhist centre with a monastery, schools and libraries. Today women do not come out of their homes after dark for fear of being molested.

Traders close their stores at dusk for fear of being looted. Mothers tell their children goonda stories to scare them into staying home and going to bed.

During a 300-kilometre tour of the region, dozens of bodies were seen being carried on makeshift caskets for cremation.

"Some of them are victims of the goondas," said taxi driver Bansi Prasad, a Nalanda native.

"They are the goondas," Prasad said pointing at a group of men bathing in the Ganges River that flows through Bihar. "It is an old tradition. Before they commit new sins, they wash away their last sins."

Hindus believe that a ceremonial bath in the holy Ganges absolves sins.

Bihar is a dark, disturbing, renegade state where ancient and modern India meet and clash. It is a place of social turmoil, a feudal caste system, rising terrorism and daily struggle for survival.

A rising communist movement feeds on demands by the poor for equal rights.

"But Bihar remains where it was at the time of independence," from Britain in 1947, said R.N. Rudra, a Patna resident who was disenfranchised when the state capital voted last month.

"When I went to cast my ballot, I was told that someone had already given my vote," Rudra, a chartered accountant said.

This is where Bihar's goondas play a crucial role. "About 500 first-class goondas can make a candidate win an election," said Dharmender Singh Gangwar, the chief administrator in Hilsa, 25 kilometres northwest of Nalanda.

## Italians approve electoral change

ROME (AP) — Italians overwhelmingly approved a referendum on electoral change, signalling disgust with corruption and indicating support for proposed reforms of the postwar political structure, according to results Monday.

The referendum measure, aimed at reducing electoral fraud, would cut the number of votes Italians could cast in parliamentary elections.

But promoters billed it as the first step in overhauling a political system that has come under widespread criticism in recent years due to parliamentary logjams, constant infighting and revolving-door governments.

The vote was 95.6 per cent in favour of the measure, and 4.5 per cent against.

President Francesco Cossiga hinted he might dissolve parliament and call elections a year early because of the vote.

"Voters have rejected the system with which this chamber of deputies was elected," he said, adding he would consult with the premier and legislative leaders on the matter.

The main opponents, the Socialists, had urged Italians to boycott the vote, saying it was

meaningless. They are the second-biggest party in the governing coalition.

But 62.5 per cent of the 47 million eligible voters cast ballots Sunday and Monday morning.

The turnout and margin of victory were substantially larger than predicted.

"Starting today, a new wind of transparency, cleanliness and honesty is blowing through Italy's democracy," exulted the referendum's main promoter, parliamentary deputy Mario Segni of the dominant Christian Democrats.

Turnout was lowest in southern Italy — the area where the new measure is expected to hit hardest. Vote fraud is considered a particularly widespread problem in the south, the base of Italy's organised crime families and a region where politics has traditionally involved exchanging votes for favours.

As the results were announced, several leading politicians said voters had sent a message indicating their support for widespread reform.

"The success of the referendum shows that the people want to decide themselves" on the

reform of the government, Cossiga said.

"(Voters) turned out expressing a strong desire for change, which indicates a significant interest in electoral and institutional questions that cannot be ignored by the parliament and political forces," said a Christian Democrat senator, Emilio Colombo.

His party did not take a position on the referendum before the vote. The Democratic Party of the left, Italy's second-biggest party which was until recently known as the Communists, supported it.

The major political parties have each drawn up proposals recently for a "second republic" that would substantially change the weak central government structure created to discourage the rise of another Mussolini.

Italy is currently on its 50th postwar government.

The proposed reforms range from establishing a strong, French-style presidency to streamlining the parliamentary process to increasing politicians' accountability.

The measure approved Sunday and Monday will not address those issues.

## COLUMN

### Kidnappers free businesswoman after ransom paid

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Kidnappers freed Monday a Brazilian businesswoman whose company holds a Coca-Cola franchise, but two company directors were kidnapped when they went to pay the ransom, a local news agency reported. Brazilian police said kidnappers released Coffin, 46, nearly two weeks after she was kidnapped by armed men. The local Estado news agency reported that two company directors were abducted when they went to pay the ransom money for the release of Coffin, director of a group of five bottling plants which hold the Coca-Cola franchise for parts of Rio de Janeiro state. A police spokesman confirmed the two directors had disappeared but could not say if they had been kidnapped.

"We are investigating," he said. Estado said the original ransom demand of \$10 million was reduced to \$260,000. The police were not involved in negotiations between Coffin's family and the kidnappers, and the spokesman could not confirm the amount of the ransom.

French drink less wine

PARIS (R) — The French drank 17 per cent less wine than they did a decade ago but are still the world's leading consumers per head, according to figures